

Jordan Times

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India, Pakistan agree to talks

NEW DELHI (AP) — India Monday agreed to hold high-level talks with Pakistan to ease tensions, and a government spokesman said top officials of the two nations will meet early next month. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the date and the venue of the talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries will be set soon. The spokesman said the decision was taken after a meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary Madhav Kumar Jha and Pakistan's high commissioner Basit Khan Babar. In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tavir Ahmad Khan confirmed the proposed meeting and added: "I think this is a welcome development. This could be a good beginning." A dispute over the Kashmir Valley has brought the two neighbours close to a fourth war as the armies of the two countries have begun amassing troops and artillery along the border. Both nations are believed to possess nuclear weapons technology. India exploded an atomic device in 1974. In addition, two of the three previous India-Pakistan wars, fought in 1948 and 1965, have been over Kashmir. Both were won by India.

Argentina scrambles into second round

NAPLES (R) — World champions Argentina scrambled into the second round of the World Cup when they drew 1-1 with Romania in a bruising match Monday. East the Soviet Union were knocked out despite thrashing Cameroon 4-0 in their third and final Group B match. Although they shredded the rugged Cameroon defence in their desperate quest for goals their fate was sealed when Argentina and Romania drew 1-1. It left the Soviets, highly rated before the tournament, at the bottom of the group table. Pedro Monzon headed Argentina in front from a Diego Maradona corner in the 62nd minute. Gavril Balot equalised six minutes later. The result also covered the Romanians a place in the knockout phase of the tournament. The pair finished their Group B programme with three points, one behind Cameroon.

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Jordan names envoy to Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has nominated Hashem Al Muhaisen to serve as Jordan's ambassador to Libya, according to informed sources. In April, Jordan sent two diplomats, including Muhaisen, to Tripoli to take charge of the Jordanian embassy, which was burned down by Libyan crowds in 1984 prompting Amman to break diplomatic relations with Libya. Jordan announced it was restoring relations with Libya in 1987 ahead of an Arab League summit in Amman.

U.N. chief meets Hussein

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar conferred here Saturday with Frisal Hussein, a Palestinian leader from the occupied territories, a U.N. spokesman said Monday. He said they discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the impending mission to the area of the secretary general's personal representative, Jean-Claude Aime, named last Wednesday to head a small team to visit Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and possibly other countries. The U.N. spokesman said Aime left New York Sunday for Geneva. The rest of his itinerary has not yet been made public.

Israel bans Arab's poem, holds poet

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Haifa district court on Monday banned publication of poems by an Israeli Arab who has been accused of incitement against Israel through his poetry, police said. The court also ordered the poet, Shafik Habib, held in custody for further questioning, police said. Arab writers say they fear it is a "test case" in which police are seeking to determine whether Israeli anti-incitement laws can be applied to writers. Habib, 49, of Deir Hanna near Nazareth, was detained last Wednesday.

Kuwait court frees 4 in sabotage trial

KUWAIT (AP) — The state security court Monday acquitted four Kuwaitis who have been on trial since mid-May for alleged sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government, charges which carry the death penalty. The no-jury court, which usually sits in closed session, referred minor charges of forging official documents or criminal courts. But it fined each of the defendants 150 dinars (\$250) to collect fees for four defence lawyers appointed by the court. The verdict was read in a brief public session. It did not give reasons for the acquittal. But court sources said the acquittals were apparently based on lack of evidence.

Central Americans to form economic union

ANTIGUA (AP) — Five Central American presidents have agreed to form a Central American economic community in an effort to fight poverty and end the civil wars caused by it. "We will never see peace in Central America while hunger exists in thousands of homes," Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon said late Sunday in a speech closing a three-day economic summit. The presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala called upon the international community for support.

Kashmiri militants announce 'government'

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (R) — The main militant group fighting Indian rule over Jammu and Kashmir state announced the formation of a provisional government Monday, saying the aim was to step up the "freedom struggle." Amanullah Khan, Pakistan-based chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), told a news conference he would be chief spokesman of the new coalition, which would have a 24-member council of ministers and advisers. A president and prime minister would be chosen later, he said.

Iraq renews warning to Israel, says it will not start war

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday repeated his warning that he would mount an all-out attack against Israel if it struck at any Arab state.

But a senior official emphasized that Baghdad would not be the first to start a war and wanted to keep its ties with Washington, which denounced the earlier warning.

"We say we will strike them (Israel) with all weapons we possess if they launch an aggression on Iraq and the Arabs," Hussein told a conference attended by Muslims from 70 countries.

Iraq called the meeting to rally support against Israel and Western critics who voiced outrage over the president's warning last month to "burn half of Israel" with chemical weapons if it attacked Iraq.

Western states have also condemned what they say are Iraqi attempts to acquire nuclear trigger mechanisms and components for a "superbomb." The United States said last week Baghdad was on a collision course with the

West over its weaponry. Hussein told the conference his warning to Israel of retaliation for any attack extended to Mauritania on the western edge of the Arab World and included Syria. But he denied his country would make the first strike.

He criticised the West for giving Israel more weapons than all the Arabs and appealed for Arab unity, saying frontline states like Syria and Jordan could not confront Israel alone.

While Arabs were determined to resist any aggression, Hussein denied that Muslims wanted to liquidate Israelis or any other country.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun said in an interview with Reuters Monday that Iraq was keen to preserve moral relations with Washington but these must be based on non-interference in each other's affairs.

Hamdoun said Washington's policy was contradictory in blaming Iraq for having the potential to deter any Israeli attack while urging regional stability.

"I believe that Iraq's acquisition of deterrent potential is, in the first place, a defensive cause, because Iraq will certainly not be the first to start a military collision."

"Iraq's strategy is based on deterrence and prevention of such an aggression, a principle clearly stressed by President Saddam Hussein in his statement on April 2... but it will react strongly to any hostile action," he said.

"How can stability and peace in the region be safeguarded with the presence of exclusive nuclear potential and other weapons of mass destruction in Israel?"

He cited Israeli attacks on an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, on Lebanon in 1982 and PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) headquarters in Tunis in 1986.

"That is why I believe that the Iraqi position... is a basis for stability in the region and a basic guarantee vis-a-vis any probable Israeli aggression," said Hamdoun, who described Iraq as an element for regional stability in recent years.

Rafsanjani reports moves for peace talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Officials from Iran and Iraq have begun talks to prepare for direct peace negotiations, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Monday.

The official IRNA news agency quoted Rafsanjani as saying representatives from the two sides were holding preparatory talks.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein proposed a peace summit with Rafsanjani in two letters he sent to the Iranian leadership last month.

Iran, which responded to the first letter, gave a cautious welcome to the initiative but said lower-level talks had to be held first.

The two countries have been at a no-war-no-peace stalemate since a United Nations-brokered ceasefire ended eight years of fighting in August 1988.

Rafsanjani, speaking to reporters in the northeastern city of Mashhad, said any settlement should be based on the Security Council resolution which led to the ceasefire.

"The main focus of our work is Resolution 598, and we have called on U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue his efforts so that the role of the secretary general and (resolution) 598 is not undermined," IRNA quoted him as saying.

The resolution also calls for the withdrawal of troops behind international borders, exchange of about 100,000 war prisoners and the formation of a committee to decide which side started the war.

Earlier this month, Iran said Perez de Cuellar welcomed an invitation by Rafsanjani to visit the region to promote peace.

IRNA said Saturday Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati received a message from Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi, who is acting as a go-between with Iraq.

'Iraqi-Yemeni move'

Kuwait's Al Seyyassah daily said Monday that President Hussein discussed with Yemeni leaders the possibility of closing the Bab Al Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea to Iranian vessels if Tehran tries to block delivery of Italian-built warships to Iraq.

It said that Hussein, who visited the newly united state of Yemen at the weekend, raised the issue after Iran's naval commander Ali Saleh Shamkhani, threatened to prevent 11 Italian-built warships being delivered to Iraq through the Hormuz Strait, gateway to the Gulf and the only maritime route to Iraq.

PLO opens probe into aborted PLF operation

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has opened an internal inquiry into the Palestinian guerrilla operation against Israel last month which has put in doubt the future of the PLO-American dialogue.

Salah Khalaf, who supervises the PLO's security service, told Reuters in an interview Monday the aim was to find out if civilians were the target in the May 30 raid on two Israeli beaches by the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF).

The United States was threatened to break off the dialogue unless the PLO condemns the operation and takes disciplinary action against PLF leader Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas), who is a member of the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee.

The PLO has said only that its official forces had nothing to do with the abortive attack by 16 PLF guerrillas and that it is against guerrilla operations directed at civilians.

Khalaf said PLO security would report the results of the inquiry to the executive committee, which would then refer it to the Palestine National Council (PNC).

He noted that the PLF had already announced the targets of the raid were military and that Israeli press reports had said the PLF guerrillas had not fired at civilians within range.

Israel said four PLF guerrillas were killed and a dozen captured in the raid, which it said was launched from Libya, but no Israelis were injured. The PLF said it carried out the

attack on the last day of an Arab summit in Baghdad to avenge eight Arab workers shot dead by an Israeli gunboat near Tel Aviv May 20.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has said that only the PNC can take a decision on Abu Abbas's future because he was elected by the PNC. No date has been set for a meeting of the council.

Abu Iyad said he was less pessimistic than previously that Washington would break the dialogue, which opened after Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist in December 1988.

"The atmosphere is calmer than at the time of the operation. Either the United States will be satisfied with PLO statement (on the PLF operation) or they will only suspend the dialogue," he said.

"I don't want either a break or a suspension (of the dialogue) because that would increase the tension between all the parties (in the Arab-Israeli) conflict," he added.

He described criticism of Israel by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week as "positive because he emphasised the importance of peace and of Israel having a positive role."

Abu Iyad said the PLO had an Israeli list of 17 PLO leaders, including himself, Arafat and Political Department head Farouk Kaddoumi, and had taken precautions to prevent assassinations. PLO leaders had, for example, cut down on travelling by plane, he added.



Hikmat Al Saket



Khaled Amin Abdullah



Ibrahim Ayyoub



Nabil Abdul Huda

Cabinet reshuffled slightly

Khaled Amin Abdullah replaces Masri; Ayyoub, Abul Huda exchange portfolios; Hikmat Al Saket takes over as minister of state at Prime Ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday reshuffled his government by bringing in two new ministers and accepting the resignation of Awni Al Masri, minister of planning. Badran assigned Khaled Amin Abdullah, a former bank executive, to be planning minister in place of Masri, who had offered

his resignation several months ago. Hikmat Al Saket was named state minister for Prime Ministry Affairs, the same job he held in a previous Badran government in 1980. The post has recently been vacant. Supply Minister Nabil Abul Huda switched portfolios with

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub, who was supply minister in several previous governments. The changes, which raise the number of ministers to 25, endorsed by a Royal Decree and the new ministers were sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.



Awni Al Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is a list of the cabinet after Monday's reshuffle:

Prime minister and minister of defence — Mudar Badran
Deputy prime minister and foreign minister — Marwan Al Qasbi
Deputy prime minister and interior minister — Salem Masra'deh
Ministers:
Labour — Qasem Obaidat
Social development — Abdul Majid Shreideh
Municipal, Rural and Environment affairs — Abdul Karim Al Dughail
Religious affairs — Ali Faqr
Public works and housing — Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh
Supply — Ibrahim Ayyoub
Trade and industry — Ziad Fariz
Education and higher education — Mohammad Hamdan
Finance and customs — Basel Jaradneh
Transport and communications — Nabil Abul Huda
Energy and mineral resources — Thabet Al Taber
Planning — Khaled Amin Abdullah
Agriculture — Suleiman Arabiyat
Justice — Yousef Mbeideen
Information — Ibrahim Izzeddin
Health — Mohammad Al Zaben
Youth — Ibrahim Al Ghababeh
Water and irrigation — Dawud Khalaf
Tourism and antiquities — Abdul Karim Kahariti
Parliamentary affairs — Abdul Baqi Jammo
Culture — Khaled Karaki

Tel Aviv gunman charged

TEL AVIV (AP) — A court Monday charged Ami Popper, a 21-year-old Israeli, with the murder of seven Palestinian labourers whose deaths last month set off protests or revenge attacks in which 20 other people died.

Popper was charged in Tel Aviv district court after a five-man psychiatric panel rejected claims by Popper's lawyer, David Ofek, that his client was unfit to stand trial, officials said.

District prosecutor Nurit Smith said Popper would face a mandatory life sentence if convicted of the seven murders and the wounding of 10 other Arab labourers. Reports had indicated that eight people were killed in the attack and there was no immediate explanation why Popper was charged with only seven murders.

In the May 20 slayings, an armed attacker forced about 50 Palestinians to sit in rows as they waited for day jobs in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion. He then opened fire with an assault rifle on the unarmed labourers.

The attack sparked protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in which 18 Palestinians were killed, most in army gunfire. Two Israelis also died in alleged revenge attacks.

Authorities said at the time that Popper, who was discharged early from the Israeli army for disciplinary problems, was "deranged." Ofek claimed he tried to hang himself in jail.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, the body of the Israeli-appointed local leader of the village of Burkin was found hanging from a

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Americans sympathise equally with Israelis and Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American public sympathises almost equally with the Israeli and Palestinian sides in the Middle East conflict, according to a poll taken last week by a Jewish organisation in the United States.

The poll, conducted by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), showed that 33 per cent of the survey audience supported the Palestinians and 31 per cent the Israelis — compared with a 30:42 per cent ratio last September, according to a report in the Jerusalem Post.

Although the intifada and an "unfavourable" press have caused an erosion in American support for Israel, Americans who sympathise with Israel (47 per cent of the population) in the Arab-Israeli conflict outnumber those who lean towards the Arab side (16 per cent) by a ratio of almost three to one, according to the poll.

This represents a six per cent loss of popularity for Israel since a previous poll taken in September 1989, the Post said. Some 27 per cent of the respondents said they had never heard of the intifada. Fully 57 per cent believed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remained "a terrorist" organisation and 71 per cent were of the opinion that President George Bush should suspend talks with the PLO unless PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat meets U.S. conditions for continuing the dialogue.

Some 65 per cent of those polled believed Israel is receiving too much aid, yet 40 per cent opposed.

This poll is considered one of the most reliable public opinion barometers in the U.S., according to the Post.

First cases of May riots expected in court soon

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The first cases involving suspects held in connection with violent protests in Amman and its suburbs last month have been forwarded to the prosecutor-general and are expected to go on trial by civil courts soon, according to official sources.

Sixty people were arrested immediately after the riots, which followed anti-Israeli demonstrations in support of the Palestinian uprising and against the massacre of eight Palestinians by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv on May 20. A police source said 51 of the

detainees were released after questioning late last month and six others were held shortly afterwards.

Another source confirmed that the prosecutor general's office had received 15 case files and "six or seven of the detainees" would be immediately charged with attacking policemen and public property and with vandalism.

"The rest of the cases are still under study," the source said. According to the police source, "none of the 15 suspects is believed to have instigated the violent attacks and rampage" against security forces and public property on May 21 and 22.

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Five held, arms seized

AMMAN (J.T.) — Security forces have detained five people, including four members of the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdes group, and weapons were seized from them, a security source said Monday.

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, rejected reports that the five were linked to an attack on French tourists in downtown Amman on May 21, one day after an Israeli gunman massacred eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv. "The five have no links with Ahmad Badwan," said the source referring to the lone assailant who carried out the attack on tourists. Badwan is still under investigation and no evidence has been found yet linking him to any group, the source said.

Talat Tamimi, son of Sheikh As'ad Bayoud Tamimi, head of the Islamic Jihad group, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that his two brothers, two bodyguards of the senior Tamimi and an unidentified official of the Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) were the five arrested. Assad Bayoud Tamimi is currently visiting Libya and is expected to return to Amman Tuesday, Talat Tamimi told the AP.

"We were told that the all will be released soon," he said. He said police swooped on his father's house and seized two unlicensed Kalashnikov assault rifles and .45 caliber pistols "which are my father's personal arms."

Tamimi told the AP his two brothers, Tareq, 26, and Mamoun, 30, were arrested in separate raids on their homes Thursday.

In recent months security officials have told the AP that Isla-

(Continued on page 5)

Algeria's FLN vows to renew ranks after election defeat

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has vowed to cleanse its ranks after a crushing defeat at the polls to Muslim fundamentalists in the country's first free elections.

A long awaited statement from the FLN's political bureau Sunday night blamed in part the front's failure to adapt to a new democratic era after 28 years of one-party rule.

"The renovation of the party and the renewal of its human composition constitute one of the major requirements of the future," the statement said.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) captured 55 per cent of the 1,541 municipal councils and two-thirds of the provincial assemblies in a sweeping public repudiation of the FLN, widely linked to charges of corruption and economic mismanagement.

A breakdown of voting districts in the two largest cities of Algiers and Oran published in the FLN daily Al Moudjahid Monday showed an FIS landslide.

The fundamentalists won an absolute majority in at least 30 of the 33 municipalities making up metropolitan Algiers with an average of 78 per cent of the popular vote.

In the western city of Oran, often considered the most liberal Algerian city, the FIS took all but two of the 26 municipalities with

an average 75 per cent of the vote in 15 districts.

In apparent reference to the FIS, the FLN said the election climate "had not been exempt from verbal extremism, excesses and behaviour contrary to the freedom of choice of citizens."

But the statement, carried by the Algerian News Agency (APS), said the vote's political significance could not be ignored.

Political analysts said the defeat was likely to reinforce the reformist wing of the party led by President Chadli Benjedid and weaken old guard figures linked to former President Houari Boumedienne who led the election campaign.

The FLN said its Central Committee would meet after July 5.

It said some of its members "had not yet adjusted efficiently in a number of areas to the requirements of political practices in a multi-party democracy."

It called for widespread discussion between political parties to strengthen the democratic process and launched a thinly veiled attack on the FIS.

"The FLN remains profoundly

convinced that Islam should be a factor of unity, tolerance and fraternity among Algerians as it has been throughout our long history."

"It rejects all attempts to bring Islam back to an era of charlatanism and myth and make it an instrument of demagoguery and political opportunism."

Political sources said the FLN hoped to delay as much as possible early parliamentary elections demanded by the FIS. This would give the party, which holds all seats in parliament, time to reorganise and mobilise the 35 per cent of the electorate that abstained.

The FLN also hoped public support for the FIS would wane as it tackled the difficult job of running local assemblies with little real power or financial means.

"The last chance of the FLN remains with a large part of voters who abstained who may have underestimated the strength of the FIS and overestimated the strength of the FLN," wrote former APS director Belkacem Achene Djaballah in Al Moudjahid.

But he said this required the FLN to reform itself thoroughly and fast.

Meanwhile Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), a centre-left party that came fourth in Algeria's first free elections, has urged formation of a broad-based

democratic front after a triumph by the FIS.

"The RCD issues an appeal for a wide and resolutely offensive democratic front," said a statement carried by Algerian Radio Monday.

It proposed a meeting on July 5 to create a new structure that would allow the "convergence of efforts toward the fast and urgent realisation of a vast democratic movement."

RCD, run by ethnic Berbers, won 87 of the country's 1,541 municipalities in the local poll that gave 833 to the Islamic Salvation Front, 487 to the ruling National Liberation Front and 106 to independents.

RCD, which derives most of its support from natives of the Berber-speaking Kabylie Mountains east of Algiers, said the proposed new structure would be separate from a "democratic forum" formed by a group of intellectuals last Friday.

The FIS aims to create an Islamic state which critics say would end a multi-party democracy launched by President Benjedid after October 1988 youth riots.

Only a coalition of pro-democracy parties would be able to block the FIS in parliamentary elections now widely expected to be held before the scheduled date of 1992, the RCD says.

Turkish diplomat accused of smuggling antiques from Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A radical Tehran daily Sunday castigated the Turkish press for publishing "insulting articles" about the Islamic Republic to stifle a Muslim revival and a Turkish diplomat was accused of trying to smuggle "priceless antiques."

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Iranian embassy in Ankara as saying the antiques, some 850 years old, were seized three weeks ago from the Turkish Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, Mofit Ozdas.

The agency quoted an Iranian embassy spokesman in Ankara as saying the antiques including glass and porcelain vases and pistols.

IRNA said Turkish newspapers have launched a "smear campaign" against Iran and alleged that Ozdas was "manhandled and his personal belongings confiscated" by Revolutionary Guards in Tehran.

Tehran's Abrar daily denounced Turkish newspapers for publishing "obscene pictures... in a bid to pervert the public, young people in particular."

There has been friction in recent months between Turkey and neighbouring Iran, which considers itself to be the leader of the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

Turkey is predominantly Muslim, but is a secular state. It is grappling with rising Islamic fundamentalism that has touched off violence in recent months.

The Ankara government recently scrapped a law banning Muslim women students from wearing Islamic veils at Turkish universities.

Abrar denied reports in Turkish newspapers that the trouble was being instigated by "foreign elements."

"How come that despite an intensive anti-Islamic campaign, university students... stood against the no-veil policy and defended the Islamic code of dressing for women as a vehicle for returning to Islam and expressing hatred for the lay system?" the Abrar editorial said.

"How come that despite having strong means and ample possibilities, the Turkish press has had no success in its efforts to remove Islam from Turkish society?" it added.

American official criticises Eritrean rebels over food relief

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Eritrean rebels are hindering the reopening of a port crucial to the supply of emergency food for drought victims in northern Ethiopia, said a U.S. official.

Thomas R. Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the position of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) on the port of Massawa was "not encouraging," but that the Bush administration hoped it would soften.

"We hope we haven't heard the final answer from the EPLF," Pickering told journalists Sunday.

The port is vital to the supply of urgently needed relief food to an estimated 4.5 million drought victims in northern Ethiopia, particularly the hardest-hit provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

However, since the rebels captured Massawa in February, the port has been extensively damaged in air attacks by the Ethiopian Air Force. The rebels have invited donor countries to deliver food to Massawa for distribution through the EPLF, but none have done so.

The government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, which late last year held two rounds of preliminary peace talks with the rebels, early this month agreed to the reopening of the port subject to negotiations with all interested parties.

The rebels have not publicly commented on reopening the port. But last week they

announced plans to withdraw from any further peace negotiations, saying they believed they could achieve their objectives militarily, according to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter who chaired the peace talks.

The EPLF also has refused to guarantee the safety of any aircraft trying to fly relief food and supplies into Asmara, the provincial capital of Eritrea, which is facing critical food shortages.

The United States and the Soviet Union, during their Washington summit, announced plans for a joint airlift into Asmara.

Pickering, who held a 2-hour talk with Mengistu Saturday, said that despite the rebels' negative attitude, he was optimistic a peaceful solution to the 29-year-old secessionist war was still possible.

The Eritrean rebels seek independence for Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province and a former Italian colony.

Mengistu also is battling a separate insurgency in Tigre, Shoa and Wollo, the provinces south of Eritrea and north of the capital.

Israel denies military aid to Ethiopia

In another development, the Israeli defence ministry Sunday attacked reports that Israel is supplying cluster bombs and military advisers to Ethiopia,

saying they contained "lies and distortions."

An American television network reported last week that a document written by a U.S. official and leaked to the media accuses Israel of supplying the deadly bombs to Addis Ababa for use against rebels in Ethiopia.

It quoted the document as saying Israel was providing military aid in exchange for Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas.

An adviser to Defence Minister Moshe Arens, Danny Navet, issued a statement Sunday saying: "In the past few days, we have witnessed a series of publications including distortions and lies about the defence exports of Israel."

"Israel does not respond to reports about its defence exports and that doesn't mean we confirm or deny those reports. Israel will not deter from this policy."

The Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronot quoted the document as saying Israel sold 100 cluster bombs to Ethiopia in 1989 and sent military advisers to train an elite force in Addis Ababa.

Israel had also provided Ethiopia with guns and surveillance equipment, it said.

A U.S. State Department official told journalists last month that Israel had supplied military advisers and light arms to Ethiopia between November and March. Israel and Ethiopia resumed diplomatic relations in November.

Strains emerge inside Shamir's cabinet over handling U.S. ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — Aides to Foreign Minister David Levy are angry with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for refusing American proposals for starting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, a leading Hebrew daily reported Monday.

In a front-page story, the Haaretz newspaper said Levy also blocked the premier from delivering a message to Egyptian leaders through the Israeli embassy in Cairo last week.

Israeli analysts have predicted Shamir's right-wing government of 10 parties would be plagued with disputes. But the Shamir-Levy argument means the first rift in the week-old cabinet erupted within Shamir's own Likud Bloc.

Levy is the party's no. 2 man.

Levy's aspirations to eventually replace Shamir as Likud leader have caused past disputes between the two. In Shamir's last cabinet, Levy was a chief critic of U.S. peace plans, but has taken a more moderate stance since taking over the Foreign Ministry.

Levy's spokeswoman Aliza Goren, reached by telephone,

declined direct comment on the reports of disagreement, saying only they were "an exaggeration and blown out of proportion."

Ms. Goren also noted one major goal of the Moroccan-born Levy "is to bring better understanding with the United States."

Levy has been inactive since Thursday when he was hospitalized with a mild heart attack. The 52-year-old leader is expected to be released from the hospital by the weekend and has begun working from his sickbed.

Israeli-U.S. ties have been strained in the past year over disagreement about Middle East policies and the American dialogue with the PLO, which Israel considers a "terrorist organisation."

Haaretz said Levy's aides were particularly annoyed by statements made Friday by Shamir's top political adviser, Yossi Ben-Aharon.

Ben-Aharon suggested on army radio that Israel wanted to shelve peace proposals raised last year by U.S. Secretary of State

James A. Baker III as a way to revive Israel's stalled initiative for Palestinian elections.

"We are asking to start from the beginning," Ben-Aharon said.

According to Haaretz, Levy's aides considered the remark, among others coming from Shamir's office, to be "unnecessary instigation at a sensitive moment."

Shamir himself sharply criticised the United States Monday for continuing a dialogue with the PLO despite an aborted seaborne attack on May 30 that was claimed by a PLO faction.

"Week after week passes and they are still holding consultations, there in the political offices in the United States, about whether indeed the PLO is still a terrorist organisation," Shamir shouted in a speech to students.

"They cannot decide whether they have to prove the credibility of the United States, to prove to the entire world that he who uses terror, you don't negotiate with him," Shamir added.

Cypriot leukaemia child responding to treatment

NICOSIA (R) — Two-year-old leukaemia victim Stephanie Charalambous, given blood against her parents' religious objections, is responding well to treatment, doctors said Monday.

Stephanie received a blood transfusion Friday after the government overrode the opposition of her Jehovah's Witnesses parents to the treatment. Doctors believe she would have died without it.

"Yesterday was a very hard time for her but there were no complications and today she is much better," Dr. George Marcoulis of the Evangelistria Medical Centre told Reuters.

Doctors began giving Stephanie chemotherapy Sunday.

Police are maintaining a round-the-clock vigil at the clinic to protect her from any attempts to smuggle her out.

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Abrar denied reports in Turkish newspapers that the trouble was being instigated by "foreign elements."

"How come that despite an intensive anti-Islamic campaign, university students... stood against the no-veil policy and defended the Islamic code of dressing for women as a vehicle for returning to Islam and expressing hatred for the lay system?" the Abrar editorial said.

"How come that despite having strong means and ample possibilities, the Turkish press has had no success in its efforts to remove Islam from Turkish society?" it added.

Irish team arrives in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — A three-man Irish parliamentary delegation is in Tehran seeking talks with senior Iranian officials, the Tehran Times daily reported Monday.

"It is not known whether the visit... has to do with overall relations between the European Community (EC) and Iran, or whether they are here on a fact-finding mission on ties between Iran and Dublin," the daily reported.

It was also not clear whether the visit was linked to efforts to secure the release of Brian Keenan, a teacher who holds dual Irish and British nationality and is

held hostage by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militants in Lebanon.

He is one of 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon. Most are believed held by Shiite extremists.

No group has claimed to hold Keenan, who comes from Belfast in British-ruled Northern Ireland, since he was kidnapped in Beirut on April 1, 1986.

Nothing had been heard of him until American Frank Reed, freed by Shiites on April 30 after 39 months in captivity, said he had shared a cell with Keenan recently.

In a report made available to

the Associated Press in Cyprus, the Tehran Times identified the three Irish politicians as member of parliament David Andrews, his brother Niall who is a European Parliament member and Sen. Eoin Ryan.

They arrived in Tehran Saturday and are scheduled to leave Tuesday.

Ireland's current chairman of the EC, Ian Davies, held talks in Dublin last month with EC officials in an apparent bid to normalise relations following the furor last year over British author Salman Rushdie's novel, the Satanic Verses.

French mission reopens in Kabul

NEW DELHI (AP) — A French diplomat has left for Kabul to reopen his country's embassy in Afghanistan, making France the first country to do so following the withdrawal of Soviet troops last year, a French official said Monday.

Charge d'Affaires Thierry Bernadac left for Kabul Sunday from New Delhi, said an official at the French embassy in New Delhi.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February 1989 triggered the closure of many diplomatic missions on the grounds of safety. At the time, Western diplomats, particularly Americans, predicted that the Soviet-backed government would fall within weeks to U.S.-supported Afghan rebels.

But Afghan President Najibullah has held on, fighting off rebel

assaults and numerous military uprisings, most recently a coup attempt by former Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai in March.

The French decision to reopen its embassy, announced in January, was welcomed by Najibullah and criticised by U.S.-backed rebel forces. Italy has also said it was considering reopening its embassy.

Arafat drive against Abu Nidal seen as message to Washington

BEIRUT (R) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat is helping cut away the Lebanon powerbase of guerrilla Abu Nidal to show the United States he opposes terrorism, Palestinian sources said Monday.

Supporters of Abu Nidal, described by Washington as the "world's most wanted terrorist" were driven out of Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the southern town of Tyre during weekend fighting in which three people were killed and 16 wounded.

Security sources said Arafat loyalists provided arms and transportation for dissidents within Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) in the fighting.

Palestinian sources said one of Arafat's motives was to show Washington he opposes terrorism following last month's seaborne raid on Israeli beaches.

"Arafat could not provide bet-

ter proof than serving a blow at Abu Nidal," one source said.

The FRC, which had about 800 guerrillas before last year's split in its ranks, also has a toehold in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh near the South Lebanese port of Sidon.

Tension there was high Monday. Security sources said FRC guerrillas and men of Arafat's Fatah group were on full alert.

Libyan-backed Abu Nidal, blamed by the West for airport attacks at Rome and Vienna in 1985, broke with Arafat in 1973 and denounced him as a traitor to the Palestinian cause.

Palestinian sources said Fatah has about 12,000 men under arms in South Lebanon but Arafat could not order them to take a direct part in the fighting against Abu Nidal.

"It would have reflected nega-

tively on his image in the two refugee camps so instead he provided arms and finance to the dissidents in the FRC," one source said.

The United States is threatening to end its dialogue with the PLO unless Arafat specifically condemns the attack on Israeli beaches by the Iraqi-backed PLO faction. Washington says PLO statements denouncing terrorism generally have not met this demand.

"What happened in Rashidiyeh was a message to the United States," one Palestinian source said.

He said the fighting also had helped Arafat tighten his grip on the refugee camps of South Lebanon, the PLO's only presence in the country since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Cup fever brings spasms of calm to Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — World Cup fever is sweeping Lebanon and when matches start rival Christian fighters lay down their guns, switch on their portable television sets and, for a while at least, the country is calm.

The only gunfire is when excited militiamen shoot in the air in jubilation when their favourite teams score.

When West Germany played Yugoslavia last week, a group of scruffy militiamen of Christian warrior Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces (LF) gathered around a mobile anti-aircraft gun in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district to watch the game on a portable television set propped up beside the twin-barrelled Soviet-designed "Dushka" weapon.

A few score metres away, their rivals, rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops, also watched the game on a TV hooked to a truck battery.

When West Germany's Lothar Matthaeus scored his second

goal, both groups whooped for joy and fired off clips into the air.

The Germans' 4-1 victory triggered more celebratory gunfire.

It was hard to imagine that Aoun's troops and Geagea's irregulars have been at each other's throats since Jan. 30 in a savage power struggle for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

"The World Cup's been a god-send," said one man in Christian east Beirut. "We really needed a diversion, even if it's only for a month."

"We know we'll be going back to the 'salt mines' afterward," he said, referring to fears that a month-long ceasefire between Aoun's troops and Geagea's unruly militiamen will collapse, like all the other truces.

The uneasy ceasefire is frequently violated. But when the World Cup's on TV, both sides are too engrossed to skirmish.

Across the devastated city, in

the teeming Shiite Muslim shantytown slums of south Beirut, there are similar scenes of World Cup addiction.

It was almost as if the Iranian-backed fundamentalists of Hizbollah, or Party of God, had never been battling with their co-religionists of the Syrian-backed Amal Movement for mastery of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect, for three years.

In those two confrontations alone, more than 2,000 people have been killed and at least 5,000 wounded. Most have been civilians.

Every afternoon, when the soccer matches start in Italy, everyone switches on their television sets.

Electricity in Beirut has been cut off since early February because the power plants were knocked out in the fighting between Aoun's soldiers and Geagea's militiamen.

So everyone uses generators. The city bums. The authorities have allowed generators to run until midnight, or until the end of the last game, whichever comes first.

Not that most Beirutis pay much attention to what's left of government authority, remorselessly eroded by 15 years of civil war and lawlessness.

Just before the World Cup telecasts begin, Beirut shuts down. The streets are virtually deserted. Shops are shuttered. People go home or congregate in bars to watch the games on TV.

Whole streets, for reasons known only to their residents, support different teams. The choice is usually arbitrary.

Few Lebanese have particular links with any of the countries competing in Italy. Tiny Lebanon hasn't had a national soccer team for years and when it did, it never got anywhere near qualifying for the World Cup.

It's just a good way to let off a little steam and forget the misery and destruction for a while.

At the American University of Beirut (AUB) in the city's mainly Muslim sector, the campus is festooned with the flags of the competing soccer nations.

The night Egypt scored a surprise 1-1 tie with the Netherlands, Arab emotions erupted.

When the little favoured Egyptians held Ireland to a scoreless draw Sunday, militiamen let rip with wild abandon.

Joyful AUB students ran through the campus, carrying burning torches, beating drums, waving Egyptian flags and lobbing plastic bags filled with water at bystanders.

Throwing waterbags to celebrate soccer victories has become a national sport in recent days. "I got at least 30 waterbags on my head when I tried to cross from the dorms to the classrooms," said one student.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	World Cup: Yugoslavia vs. UAE
19:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Evolution
18:15	Des chiffres et de lettres
18:40	Tel Para Tel Fils
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Charles in Charge
21:10	A Horseman Riding By
21:45	News in English
22:45	World Cup
PRAYER TIMES	
03:50	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37	Dhuhr
16:17	'Asr
19:48	Maghreb
21:23	'Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY

Amman	15 / 25	Khalilieh pharmacy	985417
Aqaba	22 / 33		
Deserts	16 / 28		
Jordan Valley	21 / 32		

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Manir Qaqish	898101
Dr. Sulaiman Al Khayyat	791880
Dr. Musa Badir	615487
Dr. Joseph Issaib	770500
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Naioroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Adel Hattamieh	(—)
Al Sharara' pharmacy	(985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Sulaiman Abu Adlieh	(—)
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EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Qasra Alfa Intl. Airport	08-53200

Indonesia invited to use Jordan's open export quota

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office Monday the Indonesian minister of labour who arrived in Amman Sunday on a several-day official visit.

Prince Hassan and the visiting minister discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Indonesia in the field of vocational training.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Tourism and Acting Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al-Kabarti.

Kabarti said after the meeting that the talks with the visiting minister centred on enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Indonesia in labour and labour-related fields and the prospect of increasing the volume of trade.

Jordan asked the visiting minister to take into consideration utilizing Jordan's distinguished and unique geographical position between the East and West and to consider the fact that Indonesia had exhausted its specified export quotas to the West, particularly in textile industries, the minister said. Jordan proposed that Indonesia participate in Jordanian industries to make use of Jordan's open quota, he added.

ERC issues study on labour market

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Economic Research Centre (ERC) at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has just issued a detailed study on the present and future labour market situation in Jordan.

The study, which is contained in three volumes, tackles issues like arrival of non-Jordanian workers and emigration of skilled Jordanian workers to other countries in search of employment, vocational training, national policies concerning the local market, labour unions in the Kingdom and other related topics.

The first part of the study includes recommendations designed to help the concerned authorities to organise the labour market in Jordan.

The second part of the study covers forces that determine the demand and supply of workers from now until 1995 and various factors affecting the labour market.

The third part includes data, in tables of figures, about labour related matters in Jordan between 1968 and 1987.

The study provides ideas on ways to plan and prepare programmes for organising labour employment in Jordan.

The go-ahead for the publication of the study was given at a meeting held here last month and attended by an official from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The meeting, attended by representatives of concerned ministries, reviewed the study and endorsed its publication, according to ERC Director Ahmad Qasem.

Dr. Qasem said that the study was useful to policy-makers and planners and focused light on social and economic prospects in employment and the labour market.

Arabs faced with integration challenge — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — Current international developments, the formation of economic and technological blocs, like those in Europe, and the European unity planned for 1992 face the Arab World with a challenge that can best be described as the "integration challenge," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday.

"The aspired Arab integration in industry, economy and trade is bound to improve efficiency, and will no doubt shield the Arab World from the danger of becoming dependent on others or subjugated to these blocs and their policies," Prince Hassan said in an address to the opening session of a three-day symposium on Arab common drug market.

The present pharmaceutical production in the Arab countries, he said, meets only half of the needs of the Arab Nation, but Arab states have the potential to move ahead and meet all the requirements.

Prince Hassan criticised the Arab World's present poor allocation of funds for research and development and noted that it stands at the rate of \$2 for every citizen annually, compared to \$30, 50, 100 or 200 per person in advanced nations.

"The Arab Pharmaceutical Industry can flourish because it has all the essential elements for that — a vast market, experience that can be drawn from foreign and local sources, skilled manpower and raw materials," the Prince said. "At the same time the pharmaceutical industry can contribute to the development of other industries of the Arab World."

the Prince added.

Prince Hassan said that industry constitutes the backbone of Arab development, but it is based on science and technology which should be acquired through cooperation among Arab countries.

The Prince's views were underlined by Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben who said in a speech at the opening session that Arab industries have no alternative but pooling their resources and efforts.

"The world is full of giant manufacturers and industries, which create rivalry and competition in world markets, tougher by the day," the minister said.

He said Jordan had embarked on meaningful cooperation in this respect with the other members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Adnan Sayed, who represented the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) at the symposium, told the meeting that the Arab World consumes a total of \$2.2 billion worth of medicine annually, but produces only 34 per cent of the products it consumes.

This means, he said, that Arab countries are still dependent on foreign sources for 66 per cent of their medical needs. He said that the CAEU strives to establish an Arab common market to increase inter-Arab cooperation in commerce, trade and industry, and to pave the way for full integration and unity.



KING RECEIVES WFP CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives at the Royal Court Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Programme James Ingram, who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat (Petra photo)

Crown Prince calls on WFP to extend aid for development of rural regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) James Ingram Monday had a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and discussed the implementation of the WFP's 1990-94 food programme for Jordan with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan.

Prince Hassan discussed Jordanian-WFP cooperation and urged the U.N. agency to help the Kingdom in developing the Hamdan basin and the badia regions of Jordan.

He said that more aid was required to give proper attention to agricultural production in the high regions so as to ensure food security, plant fruit and forest trees and provide pasture lands.

Following the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat, Ingram was received by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), which caters to the need of social development in Jordan.

start in September in cooperation with the WFP and QAF.

Around 240,000 students in the government primary schools and at the adult and literacy centres and kindergartens in Jordan will benefit from the programme.

WFP began the programme's first stage in 1977 and has been extending it ever since. The total cost of the 1990-94 programme is expected to reach \$17 million by the end of 1994.

At a meeting with Hamdan, Ingram urged Jordan to define the type and volume of assistance needed from WFP to carry out the Kingdom's school children's food programme in the coming stage.

Ingram said that the local community should also put in a share in this vital programme whose second stage begins this year and will last for four years.

Hamdan briefed the U.N. official on the ministry's drive to implement the 1987 education conference's resolutions which provide for new school buildings, school curricula and training of teachers.

The Princess briefed Ingram on QAF's activities and programmes and talked about the implementation of the food programme for children at Jordanian schools and kindergartens, which is due to start in September in cooperation with the WFP and QAF.

Over the coming 10 years, Hamdan said, the ministry plans to set up 430 schools partly to absorb the increasing number of students and partly to dispose of rented school buildings. "Over the coming 10 years Jordan expects to have an increase of 30,000 students annually," the minister said.

Hamdan told Ingram that his ministry hopes to reduce the rate of illiteracy in Jordan to eight per cent by the end of this century, down from 20 per cent at the present.

According to ministry sources, Jordan now has 502 adult education centres offering free basic education to nearly 9,000 adult learners.

Ingram, who arrived here Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan, will meet with other officials to discuss WFP cooperation with Jordan in development schemes.

WFP contributes to the highland agricultural regions development project (1990-95), primary schools, literacy and social development centres and kindergartens in the rural areas project (1990-94), and the rangeland and lean meat development project (1986-91).

WFP's expected total assistance to these projects is \$36 million and it will come in the form of food commodities to small farmers, forestry and range reserve workers, agricultural cooperative members, small livestock owners, primary and pre-school children, adult and literacy centres and rural women trainees.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen Mother to patronise flower show

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in Jordan is holding its 17th annual flower show at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel on Wednesday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Zein the Queen Mother. Several embassies, hotels and airlines will participate in the show.

University holds graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 511 post-graduate students graduated Monday from the University of Jordan in a ceremony held under the royal patronage. Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan distributed diplomas to the graduates. The graduation ceremony was attended by several ministers, the chief judge, heads of the diplomatic corps in Amman and relatives of the graduates.

Faqir returns after Baghdad meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir returned home Monday after taking part in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of Awqaf conference and a conference on the public support to the Iraqi people. Faqir said in the ministers of Awqaf conference that a new mechanism for implementing the religious affairs agreement between the ACC member states was approved and several decisions were made to contribute to promoting the joint efforts between the Awqaf ministries in the ACC states. According to Faqir more than 700 Muslim researchers, of which about 70 are from Jordan, took part in the other conference to affirm Jordan's support to Iraq.

House approves annulment of NMI law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament health and environmental safety committee approved in a meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Ahmad Inab the annulment of the National Medical Institution (NMI) law. In another development, the legal and the educational committees of the House held a joint meeting Monday to discuss the higher education law and the Jordanian universities law and decided to continue discussion on Tuesday in the presence of the minister of education and higher education and the presidents of the four Jordanian universities.

ACC foreign ministry officials meet

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) foreign ministries senior officials opened here Monday. The meeting is scheduled to discuss issues of common interest to ACC member states such as the Jewish immigration to Palestine, the campaign launched against Iraq and issues related to coordination of stands in international and regional conferences. The meeting will also deal with defining the frameworks and the means to support the candidates of the ACC states in the various regional and international committees.

Yarmouk University opens exhibition

IRBID (Petra) — An exhibition of trikot and dress-making was opened Monday at Yarmouk University. The two-day exhibition includes clothes and knit-wear made by participants in a course organised by the university.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Shara, Mohammad Assad and Hani Khaz'eh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalist artists at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rafiq Lahana at the Royal Cultural Centre from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Monday meets members of a U.N. team preparing to open a regional centre for research and training for Arab women (Petra photo)

Projected centre aims at boosting women's role in social development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of officials and experts representing three United Nations specialised organisations had a meeting here Monday with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem to discuss prospects for the establishment of a regional centre for research and training of Arab women in Jordan.

Qasem welcomed the idea and expressed Jordan's readiness to host the projected centre, which, he said, will be accorded all possible facilities to make it a success.

The team, which groups representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Sunday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and met with its director, Inam Al Mufit, to hear about the foundation's activities concerning women.

A spokesman for the team, which arrived here Friday, said following a meeting with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma last week, that the projected centre would increase Arab women's participation in socio-economic development and will help Arab governments in similar endeavours.

Once agreement has been reached, the centre would become operational by the middle of 1995, according to the spokesman.

The centre, he added, would be organising training courses for Arab women in all matters related to family life and socio-economic development.

last week, that the projected centre would increase Arab women's participation in socio-economic development and will help Arab governments in similar endeavours.

Once agreement has been reached, the centre would become operational by the middle of 1995, according to the spokesman.

The centre, he added, would be organising training courses for Arab women in all matters related to family life and socio-economic development.

Tel Aviv

(Continued from page 1)

tree. Arab reports said he was killed for collaborating with Israeli authorities.

The victim, Lutfi Saleh Hassan Khalaf, 50, had been warned to resign from his post, the reports said.

In the West Bank village of Bidya, near Nablus, residents blamed Jewish settlers for setting a fire that destroyed some 300 vines and olive trees Sunday.

Palestinians in the district have previously accused settlers of arson. They said some of the attacks were in retaliation for Arabs burning Jewish fields and others were a result of disputes over ownership of land.

Fires also raged in forests and fields in Israel Sunday and police were investigating if they had been set on purpose. Arab activists have previously burned Jewish crops and orchards as an uprising tactic.

Police said boys aged 12 and 14 from Arab Jerusalem had confessed to damaging 77 tombstones in a mostly Jewish-American section of the Mount of Olives graveyard on June 10.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the Israeli army maintained a curfew on the downtown area of Gaza City for the third week in a row, Palestinians said.



LECTURE AT

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

"Wars of David: A textual and geographical reconsideration"

By Prof. Dr. Kamal Salibi

Tuesday, 19th June 1990, 7 p.m.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Sudan — opposition on all fronts

DISCONTENT has continued in tandem with further clamp-downs by the military government. Following the April execution of 28 army officers for participating in the alleged coup attempt, a further 24 officers, almost all of senior rank, were sentenced on May 20. Gaol terms ranged from life to two years, with one acquittal and one dismissal from the armed forces. This has done nothing to win hearts in the army, on which the Revolutionary Command Council's survival depends.

There are indications, in fact, of serious discontent in the armed forces, especially in the western region of Darfur, where Chadian forces have been pursuing their domestic quarrels at the expense of local

people and with enthusiastic Libyan participation. It has now emerged that, in the first half of May, President Habre's troops invaded the hospitals at Kutum and, reports say, the regional capital of El Fasher, to rescue wounded comrades. This in turn followed their burning of 18 Sudanese villages of the cross-border Zaghawa ethnic group, the tribe of Chadian rebel leader Idriss Deby. Zaghawa have been allied with Arab tribes against the Fur, in which hundreds of people, mainly Fur, have died in the past year and particularly since the conflict became intense in late March.

The Chadian army is therefore not entirely unwelcome in Darfur. Although the Khartoum government is allied with

Tripoli against Nijamena, Darfur governor Tijani Adam and his military chiefs (who, unlike the powers in Khartoum are not Islamic fundamentalists) are steering a careful course through the Darfur minefield which avoids direct confrontation with Chad.

There are also reports of serious attacks in the east, where Hadendowa warriors have taken on members of the National Islamic Front. Reports said nine Islamists were killed in Port Sudan, the country's strategic single port, and Kassala, the sensitive Eastern Region capital on the Ethiopian border. Hadendowa fury was aroused by the execution of former regional governor Hamid Ali Karrar, one of the

alleged leaders of the April coup attempt and himself a Hadendowa.

Opposition has also continued by more peaceful means, with demonstrations continuing in Khartoum and Omdurman. The government supplied vehicle for this protest is the absence of water and electricity at the hottest time of the year. Khartoum recently suffered record shade temperatures of over 50 degrees centigrade. The RCC has set some store by trying to demonstrate its efficiency in providing public services. Train services, never impressive, have been devastated by a strike by railway workers in the rail capital, Atbara. As MEI went to press, this was entering its fifth week. Rail

unions are historically the heart of workers' militancy, a fact tacitly acknowledged by the RCC's hesitant response. After the first week of strike action and RCC inaction, the government issued an ultimatum that the railmen should go back to work after a further week. The week passed. Three weeks later, the RCC was still undecided on what to do, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by the wider public.

Meanwhile, RCC attempts to create an alternative to the politically active professional unions have been rebuffed. In the third week of March, the government backed lawyers' "steering committee" delegation received a frosty welcome at the Arab Lawyers' Union

conference in Algiers. The Cairo based Union has been strong in its condemnation of the RCC's human rights practices. At the conference, the steering committee launched a searing attack on Egyptian lawyers. On its way back to Sudan, the committee managed to get into a brawl at Cairo airport, which led to the temporary detention of some of the lawyers. Meanwhile, in Amman, the Arab Doctors' Union general meeting refused to accept the RCC doctors' "steering committee" and said it would recognise only representatives of the Sudanese Medical Association. Along with the other professional and trades unions, the Association is now banned in Sudan — Middle East International.

Credibility starts at home

MANY important and relevant points were raised by His Majesty the King in his television interview with prominent journalists from the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. His pledge of no compromise over Arab territories and rights, though not new or surprising, should make history given the context and the timing in which it was said and reaffirmed. The King's analysis of the situation in the Middle East, in view of the rapidly changing regional and international developments, is worthy of study and serious thought in any effort made at understanding the present and the future in the area. His emphasis on his own perception and belief in being but a soldier in the fight against threats and dangers facing the Arab World, its identity and goals, does not come from a void, and those who are close to and know the King's thinking will one day tell how serious and sincere His Majesty has been about the role that he emphasised for himself.

The list of the important statements of policy and position that the King made is indeed long. One of them, however, stands out as extremely significant and is in fact too important to escape the minds of people anywhere, especially leaders and observers in the West. It is that point which the King stated calmly but clearly in answering a question. "Now they think of me as an extremist, after having always described me as a moderate." His Majesty said in an allusion to what some Western quarters say. "The fact of the matter is that I have always been a realist," the King went on to stress.

For those who understood what the words meant, well and good. The meaning is self-evident, and there is no need to recount for them the recent past. For those who did not, we plead with them to either think it possible they may be mistaken, or to forego their conspiracy of silence, or to do both.

For all, a short lesson in the contemporary history of the Middle East might be in order. It was in no small measure due to King Hussein's realism, rather than moderation or extremism, that brought the Arab World round from the three "no's" of the Khartoum Summit in 1968 into adopting the Arab Fz plan in 1982 to the PLO approval of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 in 1968. It was the King's vision and realism that played a crucial role in bringing the area close to an Arab-Israeli settlement every so often, and to an effective ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. It was not his moderation, realism or extremism that brought to Israel an extreme right-wing and ultra-religious government that wants no just and lasting peace or even compromise with its neighbours. Equally, it was not the King's moderation or extremism that has invited the problem of Jewish mass immigration into our area or the tension that was faked with Iraq and other countries over the issue of the Arab World's right to acquire science and technology and employ them for defensive purposes.

The simple truth is that Jordan and the King of Jordan have not changed enough to be accused of switching from moderation to extremism. What has changed is the reality of the situation in the area, and with it the realism of seeing these changes in their proper perspective.

For those who do not want to call a spade a spade, King Hussein's and Jordan's message is loud and clear: victimisation of others is not a solution; look closer at facts on the ground; credibility starts at home gentlemen.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies Monday commented on His Majesty King Hussein's statements in a televised interview transmitted Sunday evening in which he tackled all questions of common concern to the Arabs.

AL RA'I echoed the King's words that Jordan was shouldering serious responsibilities and will continue to do so backed by the Arab states and their assistance to the Kingdom. It said that support for Jordan at this critical time was a manifestation of pan-Arab and national responsibility, and confronting the challenges with courage was a duty which should be shouldered by the Arab countries at large. The King reminded the Arabs that Jordan has been guarding the longest confrontation line with the Zionist enemy and has been relentlessly working and striving to defend the nation and not only Jordanian territory, the paper said. The King had expressed the view that the Arab countries would not leave the Kingdom to face the whole challenge and shoulder the whole burden by itself, Al Ra'i said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i called on the concerned authorities to launch a national campaign to save water because it is so precious for the Kingdom. Tareq Masarweh said unless all and every citizen in Jordan took part in efforts to save water the ever increasing population of the Kingdom could be faced with the possibility of no water at all in the next century. It is not enough for the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to offer advice to the public about the need to save water but monitoring and controlling the situation is a must under the present circumstances, the writer said. He criticised those people living in western Amman who excessively consume water for their gardens and their swimming pools and urged all households to build water wells to collect rain water that can augment the country's meagre water resources. The writer noted that in New York and London and all European cities local authorities strictly control water consumption although their countries receive continuous rainfall. Masarweh suggested that stricter control be applied in Jordan, which receives poor rainfall every year.

Romania appears set for limited democracy

By John Rogers
Reuter

BUCHAREST — Six months after Romanians excited the world by overthrowing a Stalinist dictator, they have got the sort of democracy most of them appear to want — one in which tolerance of opposition is restricted.

The opposition is cowed and questions the future after miners, fanatical supporters of President Ion Iliescu, were able to rampage through Bucharest in search of anti-government rioters.

The three days of violence "has upset and could upset the future of our democracy," said opposition Liberal Party leader Radu Campeanu, surfacing from hiding.

The spirit of the young democracy born when last December's revolution overthrew Communist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu has taken a battering.

Iliescu and his government re-kindled opposition fears of authoritarian tactics by allowing unfettered violence by their own supporters in response to attacks on government targets.

Prime Minister Petre Roman said after the crackdown: "Nothing has changed with us as far as democratic liberty and the presence of the opposition is concerned."

From now on, it appears, opposition will be welcomed only in parliament, where Iliescu's National Salvation Front won a two-third majority in elections last month, not on the streets and only within acceptable limits in the press.

"We had wanted to build up a constructive opposition, but now I think there is little hope left for that," said deputy Calin Tariceanu, standing in the debris of Liberal Party headquarters, sacked by gangs of club-wielding miners.

Thousands of miners supporting Iliescu rushed to Bucharest by train when he appealed for help after government opponents set fire to the Interior Ministry and police headquarters and invaded the state television station last Wednesday.

The government accused the police of weakness in tackling the anti-government riots, said by Iliescu to be part of a well-organised fascist coup attempt. The interior minister was dismissed.

The miners ransacked

Bucharest University and buildings associated with the opposition. Hundreds of people beaten up in the streets as they hunted down suspected opponents of Iliescu and the front.

Although Roman denied the government called the miners in, the scale and efficiency of their operation could have been achieved only with official organisation.

Iliescu told the miners to be the "guardians" of the sensitive university square area, focal point of a seven-week anti-front demonstration. The anti-government riots erupted after police dispersed the protesters before dawn Wednesday.

The miners careered around Bucharest in trucks and buses, had no trouble pinpointing buildings to attack, were fed and watered by the government and went home glowing with praise from Iliescu for a job well done.

Their rampage intimidated opponents of the front and the government came under fire in the West, jeopardising vital economic aid, for using methods familiar under Ceausescu.

But many people, especially the workers who voted Iliescu into office with a crushing 85 per cent of the vote in last month's presidential election, appeared to welcome the rout of the opposition.

Columns of demonstrators shouting "hail to the miners" marched through the streets. People eagerly denounced front critics to the miners.

The violence underscored a class divide in Romanian society between workers and intellectuals, many of whom supported opposition parties.

After attacks on the independent newspaper Romania Libera, critical of the front, writers and journalists said the freedom of the press was threatened. Culture ministry staff issued a protest against signs of an anti-intellectual witchhunt.

The front assumed power during the December revolution in what opponents branded a coup. It later turned itself into a political party to contest the elections and won power handsomely through the ballot box.

Critics claim the presence of many former communists, including Iliescu, in the leadership made it the heir to the Communist Party's authoritarian style and last week's violence has added weight to their charges.

LETTERS

EC offers Jordan favoured treatment

To the Editor:

THE Jordan Times' Economy page of June 16, 1990 contained an illuminating article outlining the benefits to Jordan of the GSP in stimulating exports of manufactured goods. I should like to draw attention to the even greater advantages Jordan enjoys in exporting to the European Community (EC) under the 1977 cooperation agreement between Jordan and the EC. This agreement — based on the principle of free access — eliminated customs duties and quantitative restrictions on industrial products originating in Jordan sold in community markets.

With few exceptions, Jordanian manufacturers who satisfy the rules of origin are able to export their merchandise to the 12 member states of the European Community at zero customs duty and free of quotas. The agreement also permits agricultural produce to enter the European Community at preferential tariff rates at specific periods during the year, usually in the European horticultural "off-season", when Jordan Valley farmers are best able to exploit their climatic advantage. The agreement does not require Jordan to grant reciprocal trade measures, only that the community be treated no less favourably in the field of trade than most-favoured-nation treatment. Tied into the agreement are technical and financial protocols providing practical assistance to Jordan's industry, economic infrastructure and manpower development which help exporters to take advantage of the trade concessions open to them.

C.D. Falkowski
Head of the EC Delegation in Amman

Liberian enemies to talk again, but peace prospects slim

By Michael Roddy
Reuter

FREETOWN — Negotiators for Liberian President Samuel Doe and National Patriotic Front rebels fighting to overthrow him agreed to meet again this week, but achieved little more during five days of talks in Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone.

In a five-paragraph statement — Saturday, they said Doe's army and the rebels would "exercise self-restraint" in military and verbal attacks.

This was far short of the ceasefire called for by mediators from the Liberian council of churches in a three-point peace programme.

As the talks recessed and the negotiators headed home for consultations, the two sides seemed as far apart as ever on key issues in what has degenerated into one of Africa's most brutal tribal feuds for years.

"It's not peace" said a Western diplomat, adding that the only substantive agreement apart from planning to meet again was to allow delivery of relief supplies to the thousands of homeless trapped on both sides of the front line.

After talking for some 50 hours in a windowless conference room in the U.S. embassy in this run-down former British colonial capital, the two sides were nowhere near compromise on a demand by rebel leader Charles Taylor, a former Doe associate who fled the country to escape embezzlement charges, that Doe resign.

The rebels kept saying Doe must go, Does must go," said a

source familiar with the proceedings.

"They (the government side) could not agree to talk about the basic demand," a rebel sympathiser commented.

Doe, a former army master sergeant who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup, has said he will not run for re-election next year but adamantly refuses to resign beforehand.

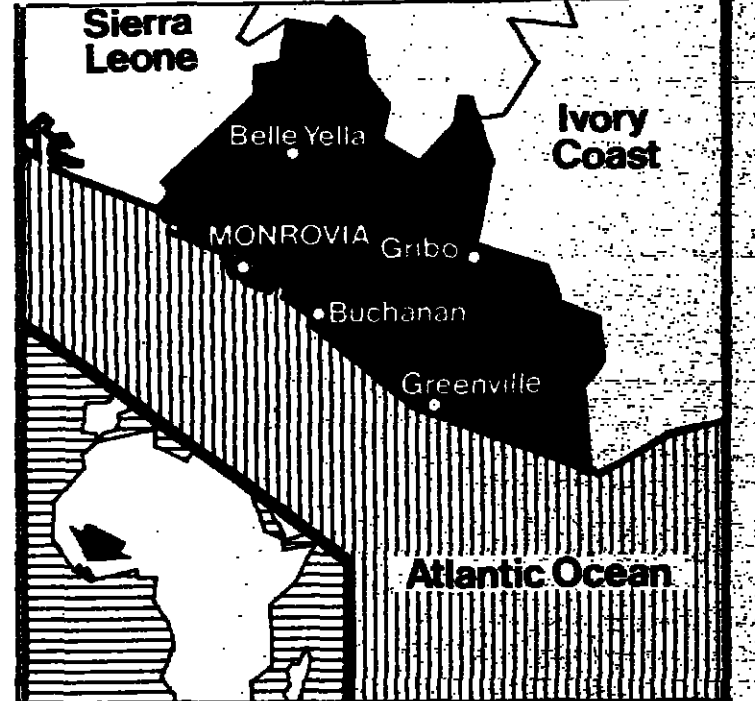
The rebels, who started their campaign to oust Doe by invading the far northeastern corner of the country in December with about 150 men, feel they have gained the upper hand militarily.

They have fought their way to within 30 to 50 kilometres of the capital, Monrovia, and now claim to have a force of 14,000. Their ranks were swollen by Gio and Mano tribesmen from northeastern Nimba county who were victims of brutal government reprisals against civilians suspected of sympathising with them.

The Patriotic Front is also having trouble keeping young, over-eager troops in line. There have been many reports of rebels looting captured towns and numerous eyewitness accounts of rebel fighters taking revenge by killing pro-Doe Krahn and Mandingo tribesmen.

If they delay their assault on the capital too long, the rebels risk getting bogged down in West Africa's answer to the "Russian winter" — the three-month rainy season, when unpaved roads become impassable and killer malaria strikes.

"He (Taylor) cannot afford to have his troops sit around," a



Western diplomat said.

Doe, with two-thirds of his country, including key economic areas, in rebel hands, feels betrayed by the United States, the main power broker and aid donor to the country founded in 1847 by freed American slaves.

In recent interviews, Doe has been highly critical of Washington and particularly of its former ambassador in Monrovia, James Bishop, accused by many Liberian officials of complicity with the rebels.

In remarks to the New York Times last week, Doe reacted strongly to criticism in a U.S. government report of his country's human rights record.

"If he thinks that was bad, wait until he sees the 1990 edition," a diplomat commented.

Despite current bad blood between Doe and the United States, there is little dispute that Washington helped consolidate him in power and could help remove him if it so desired.

Many Liberians are still outraged by 1985 elections in which widespread ballot fraud was evident, but which the United States

endorsed, giving Doe the surface respectability of having been elected to office.

In addition to providing the U.S. embassy in Freetown for the first round of the peace talks, the United States has a six-ship task force carrying 2,000 marines in the Atlantic off Liberia, ostensibly to assist in evacuation of remaining U.S. and selected European civilians if that becomes necessary.

Many Liberians and diplomats in Monrovia think the force is excessive for a simple evacuation.

U.S. officials say there are no plans to intervene militarily or to remove Doe from the scene, but what the United States calls its "facilitator" role could go beyond providing a conference centre and secretarial services, a diplomat said.

He noted that Washington in the past has "facilitated" the departures of strongmen it originally backed, such as Ferdinand Marcos from the Philippines and Jean-Claude Duvalier from Haiti, after they outlived their usefulness.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Law on refrigerated trucks may put exports on ice

By Ica Wabbeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A recent government decision to ban foreign-registered refrigerated trucks from carrying Jordanian produce without prior approval might negatively affect the Kingdom's much-needed agricultural exports, according to experts and industry sources.

The decision, which took effect May 25, affects only those countries which have similar laws and implicitly Jordan, according to Minister of Transport and Communications Hajj Ayyoub, however, exporters doubt whether Jordan does have enough, well-equipped vehicles to fill the gap.

Jordanian truckers have welcomed the decision. "The law is beneficial to us," said Ibrahim Al Sheikh, owner of a trucking company. "We were always in competition with the foreign trucking companies."

The ministry's restrictive move comes at a time when Jordanian economists as well as foreign exporters are calling for increased attention to various means to expand the Kingdom's exports.

The main questions asked by exporters and consultants are: Are Jordanian trucks technically fit to carry the burden?

Is it feasible or economically advantageous to have trucks make half of their journey laden (since they cannot expect return cargo from Europe)?

According to Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) post-harvest specialist in Jordan Yilmaz Ilker, "If the

ministry doesn't allow foreign trucks to pick up load in Jordan while they are in the country, the impact on the Jordanian exporters will be extremely severe."

He said AMO was trying to promote land transport of Jordanian products by making use of any trucking company without distinguishing between Jordanian and foreign-registered vehicles since waiting for Jordanian trucks might mean wasting precious time during the height of the season as well as exposing the produce of perishability.

Two trial shipments in March this year proved that most of perishable produce could be sent to European Community (EC) countries from Jordan by land, Ilker said. The two shipments — one to Stuttgart, West Germany, the other to Brussels, Belgium — had an excellent outcome, according to the AMO official.

The increased focus on land transport to help Jordan's exports was warranted by high costs of air freight and loose schedules of aircraft, according to exporters.

Kelly Harrison, another AMO official, said that a group of agro-business consultants — the "American Society of Agriculture Consultants" — was in Jordan for four weeks to evaluate business opportunities. The conclusion the group reached was that if Jordan increased production of certain products, export to Europe can increase dramatically. The European market has an annual gross fruit and vegetable consumption of \$1.5 billion.

Rough estimates say Jordan could annually export produce

worth as much as \$100 million to the EC countries in five years time, according to the consultants. This may be a "drop in the bucket" for the Europeans but it means badly needed foreign currency for Jordan. Even more so when compared with the profits made from Jordan's exports to the Gulf states where the Kingdom made a profit of JD 25 million to JD 30 million with a total export volume of 527,000 tonnes during 1989.

The process of exports to EC countries — starting with harvesting and packing to loading and delivering at the destination — takes six to seven days if transported by land, according to Ilker.

However, if foreign trucks are not allowed to pick up Jordanian cargo for Europe, efforts aimed at increasing the Kingdom's exports to EC could be dealt a serious blow not only because of the elimination of free market opportunities but also because of several technical reasons related to Jordanian vehicles, he said.

He cited some of the reasons: — Jordanian trucks do not have suspension air cushions on their chassis, but lack suspension which causes vibrations.

"This is not proper for perishable, delicate commodities," Ilker said.

— Jordanian trucks, like all public transport vehicles on international trips, have to be internationally insured. Some of the Kingdom's vehicles are covered by international insurance but others are not, and the expense of acquiring coverage may limit the number of vehicles legible for transport of produce to international markets.

— It is difficult for Jordanian trucks to get back-haul (cargo on return) from Europe. If they don't have back-haul freight rate from Jordan to Europe the process comes out to be very expensive.

— Last but not the least, Jordanian shippers are cautious, if not totally dislike, to use Jordanian trucks because of the above problems. They prefer to use international trucking companies whose trucks have air-cushioned suspension, are insured and whose drivers know the roads.

Another problem Ilker pointed to was problems faced by Jordanian trucks on the Syrian border. "The customs officials create many problems for Jordanian trucks; they check their trucks thoroughly, this is time consuming and time is valuable when you carry perishable goods," he said.

Ilker said that so far no regular shipment of fresh produce from Jordan to Europe has taken place. If it is to become regular, and Jordan was able to prove itself interested in and interesting to European markets (to which it was exposed in February during a West German "Green Week" in Berlin with great success), then using only Jordanian trucks will pose problems "if not simply make it impossible," according to Ilker.

Asked what solutions are envisaged, Ilker said that foreign trucking companies would do very well in this case. He gave the example of "Hungaria Camion" trucks "which come to the Middle East at a rate of 30 per month."

They come to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, even Jordan. "If

it is possible to dispatch these empty trucks (from the neighbouring countries) to Jordan if needed," Ilker said. "It is beneficial for them to pick up fresh produce going back. It is a good incentive," he added.

Loading Jordanian produce on foreign trucks and so helping them have a back-haul rather than return empty is profitable for both sides and the freight rates are cheaper than if Jordanian trucks are used, according to Ilker.

Asked if Jordanian trucks could not do the same thing (carry goods to and from other countries), Ilker said this meant Jordan should have offices and agents in Europe who could look for cargo for Jordanian trucks. "But this needs planning and connections and is also costly," Ilker said. So far the viable solution is foreign trucks, the AMO officials say.

According to Halkal Al Mufleh, general-manager of Jordanian Refrigerated Cars Owners Company, the new law is properly understood by the truckers. "It is kind of a 'bilateral' relations. The countries where we are allowed to pick up goods enjoy the same rights in Jordan," he said.

Mufleh said Jordanian truckers had a long tradition of being on the road, not only to neighbouring countries and the Gulf, but also to the Balkans, North Africa and even to Europe (London) where last October the company dispatched two trucks with produce without problems.

"Our drivers do know the roads," he insisted. "They can guide themselves with maps.

The cars are modern; we re-license them annually."

"We are insured by the Arab International Insurance Company," he replied to a question on the needed international insurance for public transport vehicles. "For Europe we only need a 'green card,'" he said.

Mufleh said he expected Jordanian truckers to begin regular trips to Europe by November this year.

What about back-haul? "This year's export is low," Mufleh said. "From Iraq we come back loaded. In Europe they work on schedules. Unless you tell them to prepare goods for you at a certain date, there's no way for us to have cargo on way back," Mufleh said.

Another problem the truckers might face in Europe, according to Mufleh, is created by the nature of the produce, which in turn, would affect the cost. European laws allow 16 tonnes to be carried by truck. If the produce is heavy and can be properly packed in crates (tomatoes, for example) the expenses are lower because the truck would then be able to carry as much as 16 to 19 tonnes. If, by contrast, the produce is light (green pepper or squash), the cost is higher, according to Mufleh.

Nabil Al Rajabi, another refrigerated trucks owner, mentioned other drawbacks. "In Europe our trucks violate the law that allows only 20-wheel trucks on the road. Our trucks have 24 wheels."

"Export to the Gulf is all right," he said. "Probably to Europe we would work but with losses."

First cases to go on trial

(Continued from page 1)

"All of them appear to have taken part in the attacks spontaneously," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. Charges expected to be levelled against them include assaulting policemen, preventing security forces from carrying out their duty, attacking and damaging public property and resisting arrest, he added.

The authorities, however, are continuing investigations into possibilities that "organised groups were involved in instigating the violence," he said.

According to legal sources, each case will be tried separately and perhaps by different courts depending on the site of the security violations involved.

The police source said at least three of the suspects were held in connection with attacks on breweries and restaurants in the Zarqa-Russeifa area. Others were arrested from the Beqaa and Wihdat refugee camps, he added. He declined to give the names of the suspects who range in age between 18 and 32 years, in accordance with Jordanian law which stipulates that names of suspects are not supposed to be published prior to their conviction or acquittal by a court of law.

Other sources have said that underground groups whom they did not identify had exploited the situation and incited people to

violence. "By all accounts, the incidents started out as peaceful protest rallies, which are allowed under the law, but were manipulated by some elements and led to violence," according to a senior Public Security Department (PSD) official.

Residents of the Hittin camp have said that a clandestine group calling itself "Islamic Liberation Party" appeared to have encouraged assaults on public property in the area on the night of May 22, when several restaurants serving alcohol were attacked and one of them was burned down. The hitherto unheard party is a staunch advocate of strict enforcement of Islamic Sharia laws and is known to argue in favour of violent means to achieve their objective.

Five held

(Continued from page 1)

mic Jihad was suspected of smuggling large quantities of arms and ammunition into Jordan.

Officials have accused the group of being involved in several infiltration attempts across the ceasefire line, according to AP.

Islamic Jihad is a small faction and it is not directly linked to the Islamic Jihad group of Iranian-backed fundamentalists holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

A village in Romania where time stood still

By David Tucker
Reuters

CERNAT — School teacher Clara Timar lives in a Transylvanian village where time stood still for nearly two decades.

"I teach English... but I haven't read or even seen an English-language newspaper or magazine for 13 years" she said.

"You are the first English person I have ever spoken to," she said, carefully pronouncing the words in flawless English, perfected by years of listening to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"The radio was our only link with the outside world."

"Can you imagine trying to teach a language without textbooks?" she asked.

Under the strictures of the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, overthrown and executed in December's revolution, Romanians were forbidden contact with foreigners.

Information was filtered, news was propaganda, the wish to travel abroad — treachery.

Western music cassette tapes and books were hard to obtain in Bucharest and impossible to get outside the capital.

People living in remote villages and outlying towns were rationed to 15 litres of petrol a month.

The rare arrival of a foreigner in Cernat prompts a flurry of interest. To a westerner the level of isolation under Ceausescu is hard to comprehend.

Several other villagers joined us, at first hesitant to speak but then willing over with anecdotes about life in Ceausescu's Romania.

"We still can't believe that we can talk openly... especially to foreigners," said Mayor David Boloni.

Asked if the quality of life had improved in this village of 4,200 people, Boloni shrugged.

"There is more food than before and someone from this village can now buy food in other towns, so I suppose things have got better," he said.

Timar said she dreamed of visiting Britain and France.

"I applied to go (under the Ceausescu regime) but was refused permission. I wrote to the international book fellowship asking for books but I think my letters were intercepted... by the securitate (security police)... I never got a reply," she said.

Museum Curator Pall Husz-

mann, a member of the national council which ruled Romania following the revolution, said Romanians were eager to rejoin the rest of Europe.

"We were cut off for years, now we are free again... we would like... exchange visits with people from other countries."

"Transylvania and Romania are no longer islands."

The tiny museum in Cernat of which Huszmann and his twin Jozsef are curators, houses a treasure-trove of artefacts ranging from bronze-age to baroque.

Cernat museum was set up 20 years ago to preserve the cultural identity and history of a region and people steeped in history and legend.

Pal and Jozsef are also craftsmen, teaching visiting schoolchildren almost forgotten skills including detailed wood carving.

"This is a living museum... a place where we protect and preserve our heritage and pass it on to the young," said Pal, gesturing with pride to a collection largely housed in open sheds at the end of a dusty lane.

The region is dominated by ethnic Hungarians who migrated here from the Northern Steppes above the Black Sea more than

1,000 years ago.

Pal said few foreigners had visited the museum: "there was a Frenchman last year..."

In one ramshackle shed a 19th-century Viennese coach occupies a cobwebbed nook, its velvet and walnut interior unbuilt.

An American Fordson tractor built in 1919 squats next to a rusting British steam generator.

The Huszmans have built several traditional houses in the Museum's leafy grounds.

They are filled with the bric-a-brac of the past — antique furniture, wooden milk churns, a 200-year-old crib, spinning wheels and ornate chests.

"Funds are a problem, but we survive," Pal told Reuters.

Inside the crumbling walls of the main museum building, which suffered some structural damage in last month's earthquake, the Huszmans keep their "more valuable" artefacts.

Bronze-age tools occupy space close to traditional 17th and 18th century glass, pottery and dowry chests.

Cavalry sabres and chain-mail armour decorate one wall above a display case where pride-of-place is given to a flintlock pistol.

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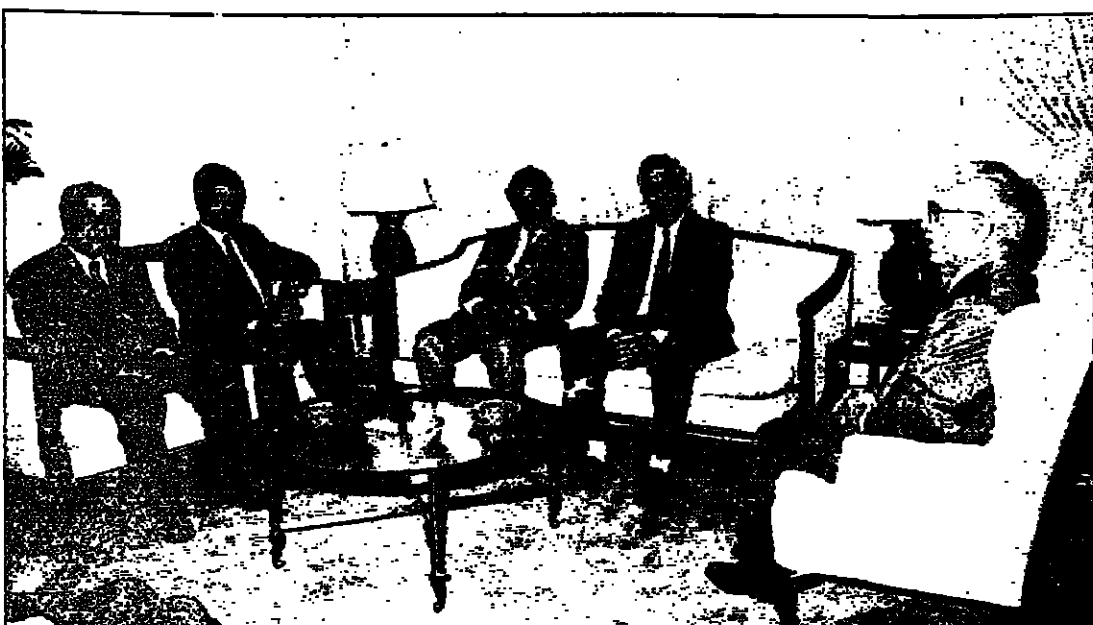
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JORDAN MARKET PLACE



KING MEETS ACC MEMBERS: His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with the energy ministers of the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member countries. (From left to right) ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar, Iraqi Ministry of Military Industry and Development Under-Secretary Ahmad Mohsen Alwan, Yemeni Energy and Water Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud and Egyptian Minister of Energy Minister Abaza. Jordan's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher also attended the meeting (Petra photo)

Accord paves way for exchange and production of generation, distribution equipment, spares

ACC moves towards self-reliance in power

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Monday took a major step towards achieving self-reliance in the field of power generation and distribution by agreeing to explore possibilities of setting up industries to manufacture equipment and spare parts and increase exchange of expertise.

The agreement, initiated Monday by the concerned ministers and officials from Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Jordan — the founding members of the ACC — paves the way for identifying the types and nature of power-generation and transmission equipment and spare parts manufactured in the four countries with a view to entering barter deals wherever possible and setting up new industries.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher, who presided over a two-day meeting of the ACC ministers and officials in Amman which culminated in the agreement, said the accord was very significant and important in that it initiates moves towards self-reliance in energy and power — "the most important elements in economic development."

The ACC countries, the minister said, aim to eliminate imports of power-generation and transmission equipment and spare parts as much as possible.

Jordan produces switch boards and transformer sub-stations as well as electric poles in addition to several types of spares for transmission and distribution equipment.

According to Egypt's Minister of Energy Maher Abaza, the four ACC countries import power equipment and spare parts to the tune of a total of about \$300 million every year. Egypt can meet half of the ACC countries' needs for spare parts for power stations, transformer sub-stations, distributors and transformers. The other half of the needs, Abaza said, could be met

through existing industries or establishing new ones in Jordan, Iraq and Yemen.

In addition, Abaza told the Jordan Times, exchange of expertise among the four could significantly contribute to achieving further self-reliance in the field of power-generation and transmission. "Today's agreement is one of the most important agreements that the ACC countries ever entered into," he said.

Iraq, which, according to an embassy spokesman, is totally self-sufficient in its requirements of power generators, transmission equipment and spare parts — sees the agreement as setting the stage for "further fruitful cooperation among ACC countries," said Ahmad Mohsen Alwan, under-secretary of Iraq's Ministry of Military Industry and Development who headed his country's delegation to the Amman meeting. "It is a very successful agreement and there were no technical hitches at all in reaching it," Alwan told the Jordan Times.

He also noted that the conference discussed inter-connections of the national power grids of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq as well as wider plans to include Syria and Turkey in the linkage.

The Iraqi official pointed out that Jordan, Iraq and Egypt had overcapacity in power generation and this could be very useful for each other to step in to help whenever the need arose. Abaza explained that "the peakload hours (of power requirements) of the three countries are different in terms of timing, and therefore each can help the other whenever needed."

According to a conference paper, the broader linkage among Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt could result in a total saving of about \$200 million in operational cost and improved system reliability. Envisaged project plans indicate that the linkage among the five countries could be completed by 1992/1993. Jordan, which already has an inter-

connection with the national power grid of Syria, has already started a project to link the Kingdom's grid with that of Egypt across the Red Sea.

The agreement initiated Monday is the 25th accord on cooperation among the ACC members, said Hilmi Nammar, secretary-general of the Amman-based council, which was set up in February last year. The accord will be presented to the prime ministers of the council for onward submission to the ACC heads of state who are scheduled to meet in Baghdad in October this year, Nammar told the Jordan Times.

"The agreement, the first of its kind among the ACC members, will go a long way in serving the objectives of economic integration among the four countries," said Nammar. Abdul Wahab Mahmoud, the Yemeni minister of energy and water, echoed the same sentiment.

The status of Yemen in meeting its needs of electrical equipment has been changed with last month's merger between North and South Yemen, and no generalisation could be immediately available.

The agreement also provides for cooperation among the four ACC countries on:

- Developing a comprehensive data base for the energy and electricity sectors;
- Linking the computer and information systems in energy and electricity utilities;
- Exchange of expertise in planning, construction, operation, monitoring and control of power systems, power plant management and computer maintenance as well as load management and conservation of energy;
- Unification of specifications and standards of electrical projects;
- Joint studies in exploiting renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy and oil shale;
- Cooperation in training and improving technical skills of personnel in the energy and electricity sectors.

Kuwait cuts oil output, UAE fails to follow suit

Boussena warns OPEC of serious oil price slide

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) President Sadek Boussena has warned the cartel that oil prices will collapse if the organisation's members do not adhere to a production cut-back agreement, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that Boussena stressed in a June 11 letter to OPEC's 13 members that if current over-production was not curbed, "things may soon get out of control."

Boussena, Algeria's mines minister, stressed that the current price slide stemming from over-production could lead "to a serious price collapse akin to the one experienced in 1986, with its full consequences on member countries' revenues and economic prospects."

Oil prices nosedived to below \$10 a barrel in 1986, causing major economic convulsions for OPEC states.

OPEC seeks to maintain current prices at around \$18 a barrel. Current prices are around \$15 a barrel.

OPEC members agreed in Geneva May 2 to trim production to 22.1-22.6 million barrels a day from the April level of 23.98 million barrels a day, far in excess of the ceiling agreed in December.

But overall OPEC production last month was estimated at 23.68 million barrels a day because several states were continuing to produce well above their quotas.

MEES quoted Boussena as saying in his letter that "the main driving factor" behind the recent downturn in prices "is undoubtedly the deep-rooted feeling of the market that the agreement reached in Geneva is not being implemented by OPEC."

He said that this "is fuelling the extreme downward pressure on prices is now substantiated by the publication of the major secondary sources' figures on OPEC production for May... thus highlighting the fact that reduction pledges have not been effectively implemented, at least to the ex-

tent necessary for the market to build confidence in the agreement."

Out of control

He cautioned that if action was not taken swiftly to reduce production "things may soon get out of control with all the damaging consequences on OPEC cohesion and credibility and our member countries' ability to continue working together for the benefit of all."

Boussena concluded that "as soon as clear signals of effective full implementation are given to the market, the present downward pressure on prices will ease, thus allowing OPEC not only to take advantage of the expected increase in demand, but to tackle and solve the outstanding problems we still have in a more satisfactory manner" at OPEC's next ministerial meeting in July.

MEES said that Boussena plans to visit all OPEC members soon to take soundings on the prospect of working out a durable agreement on production and prices at the July conference.

The weekly newsletter noted that despite "considerable disquiet" in OPEC about the production violations, there was no chance of an emergency OPEC meeting before the scheduled July 25 conference in Geneva.

The survey reported last week that despite the over-production in May, output was expected to drop considerably in June.

Kuwait cuts output

Kuwait, one of OPEC's main quota-busters, has started cutting oil output but the United Arab Emirates, another over-producer, has failed to follow suit, officials and oil industry executives said Monday.

Traders were divided on whether Kuwait was responding to political pressures or a fall in world demand.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh criticised both countries Sunday for breaking OPEC's May 3 pact to cut total output by around six per cent to

reverse a 30 per cent slide in prices this year.

Kuwaiti officials said recently that June output would be close to the 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) allocated by OPEC.

But most Kuwait-based traders estimated the cut during the second half of this month at around 200,000 bpd, down from nearly 1.9 million in May but still well above its quota.

One Japanese oil industry executive put output at around 1.6 million "or a little bit less."

A senior Gulf Arab oil official close to Kuwaiti policy-makers confirmed there had been a cut, especially in the second half of June.

"I believe 1.6 (million) will be achieved in July rather than in June," he told Reuters in Nicosia by telephone.

Reliable figures on Kuwait, which owns a vast marketing and distribution network in Europe and elsewhere, are hard to get.

Kuwait has traditionally pegged its output to that of the UAE. They each own nearly 100 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and their population figures are almost the same — 1.7 million and 1.6 million respectively.

The traders estimated that the UAE's June output remained unchanged from its May level of around 2.05 million.

UAE Oil Minister Mansour Al Otaiba last week renewed pledges to cut by 200,000 bpd to 1.9 million.

But the manager of a major Japanese oil company based in Abu Dhabi told Reuters: "June nominations (contracted cargoes) are still on. So far there is nothing of a decrease."

"The only cut that we know of is 50,000 bpd," he added.

Traders were split on whether the Kuwaiti cut reflected a political decision or a response to the weak market.

"I suspect that it is caused by the market situation, so far I don't believe they have intentionally cut back," the Japanese source told Reuters.

Egypt hikes sugar price

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, working to forge an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic reform, hiked the price of domestic sugar Monday 60 per cent, local newspapers said.

It was the latest in a series of price increases affecting most basic consumer commodities, and Western diplomats said the move risked the wrath of the nation's poor.

Sugar will be sold in state-owned cooperatives at 1.60 pounds (\$0.60) per kilogramme (2.2 pounds) compared to the previous 1.00 pound (\$0.37).

Most Egyptians will still be able to buy 750 grammes of sugar a month for 10 piasters (\$0.04) under a government rationing system.

The government is negotiating with a five-man IMF team in Cairo and hopes to have an agreement on reforms in place by the end of the month. An accord would open the way for Egypt to reschedule part of its \$50 billion foreign debt.

The IMF has been asking Egypt to reduce its budget deficit, reform its currency exchange and interest rate structures and place more emphasis on the private sector.

Last month the government raised the price of domestic cooking gas by about 130 per cent, locally-produced cigarettes by 20 per cent, wheat, flour and rice by 10 to 100 per cent and petrol and kerosene by 40 to 60 per cent.

An increase in electricity of around 40 per cent is widely expected to take effect July 1. People wanting sugar have had to queue at cooperatives for hours when it was offered for sale once or twice a month at the 1.00 pound price. Sales were often limited to one or two kilogrammes per person.

A kilogramme on the black market has sold at around 2.20 pounds (\$0.80).

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, June 18, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	117.7 118.4
Pound Sterling	668.0	672.0	435.5 436.1
Deutsche mark	1139.6	1146.4	109.6 110.3
Swiss franc	396.0	398.4	54.0 54.3
	467.5	470.3	191.8 193.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7075/85	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1715/25	Canadian dollar	
	1.6880/85	Deutsche mark	
	1.9005/15	Dutch guilders	
	1.4310/20	Swiss francs	
	34.66/67	Belgian francs	
	5.6750/6800	French francs	
	1238/1239	Italian lire	
	153.98/154.08	Japanese yen	
	6.0980/1030	Swedish crowns	
	6.4740/90	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4140/90	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	349.05/55	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market closed lower in very thin trading. A lack of fresh news related to currencies or interest rates and caution ahead of Tuesday's Japanese money supply data helped dampen interest. The Nikkei fell 161.60 to 32,376.80.

SYDNEY — The market closed firmer in relatively featureless trade dominated by turnover in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 3.6 at 1,506.1.

HONG KONG — Closed for Queen Elizabeth's birthday holiday. The Hang Seng Index closed Friday at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed in thin and very quiet trading after selective bargain-hunting alternated with some selling. However, large gains in some stocks on the Straits Times Industrial Index pushed it up 14.43 to 1,545.72.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose broadly as renewed monsoon rains brought droves of investors back to the market after two weeks of sluggish trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 5.37 points to 791.32.

FRANKFURT — A brief mid-session buying spree pushed the Dax Index above 1,800 but buying orders tailed off as prices rose. The index closed at 1,797.42, up 5.16.

ZURICH — Shares closed broadly lower on light volume. The SPI Index fell 6.8 points to 1,179.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower by midday, testing resistance around the key 2,000 level on the CAC-40 index. At 1115 GMT the index was down 12.47 at 1,999.40.

LONDON — Shares added to earlier losses in late trading and were near their lows for the day following a 20-point slide soon after the New York opening. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 22.8 at 2,369.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks fell sharply in morning trading, hit by futures-related selling and a continuing drop in U.S. bond prices. The Dow was down 22 at 2,914.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 19, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A really good day to go right after what you really want to get settled and squared away. Don't get bogged down with a lot of minor details that are better put on hold for now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early contact with the most influential persons with whom you have or can obtain any contact in the outside world and let them know your ambitions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be wide awake to modern ways to effectuate your practical goals and seek out experts with different experiences from your own who can assist you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you have a fine day to talk over with any businessmen, bankers, etc. what your biggest vision for future success is and get their assistance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put aside your sensitivity and be very objective with a worldly minded highly placed person who can give you the backing you want.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You like to think in policy terms and solve any problems in this manner but today is necessary you get into the gritty of actual work.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider your particular

talented gifts and just what can be done to make them operate so that you get rich rewards of a mundane nature from them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can do something that will enhance the value of your home so make sure you get into the various improvements you can make, consider all angles.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you do of a business nature in everyday dealings can now be put on a much better basis considering all aspects to improve.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Money often slips through your fingers but this is a day when you will be able to tighten any loopholes and have more money for the future.

CAPIRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you can put into motion those personal decisions which will give you more a feeling of security and having a sound basis to life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are usually filled with all sorts of ideas but today has the performance that counts and especially that of a foundational nature.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Depend upon a long time and serious minded friend to let you know what that person feels you can do to get more of your intimate aims.

THE Daily Crossword by Donald Gross

ACROSS

- 1 Taradiddle
- 2 Oath
- 3 Following
- 4 Fatwa
- 5 League
- 6 Garry and Mary
- 7 Car type
- 8 Kind of horse
- 9 City in India
- 10 Advantage
- 11 Extreme
- 12 League
- 13 Accurate
- 14 Archer
- 15 Stockton's state; abbr.
- 16 Aware of
- 17 mover
- 18 Up
- 19 Atlanta arena
- 20 Smelling
- 21 Philippine tribesmen
- 22 Vintage car
- 23 Korean abbr.
- 24 Continental prefix
- 25 Parry
- 26 Former Attorney General
- 27 US folk singer
- 28 Belgrade man
- 29 Philin kn
- 30 Drug agent
- 31 "Town"
- 32 Rael
- 33 Screamer
- 34 Rich cake
- 35 Possess
- 36 Stop!
- 37 Priscilla's
- 38 John
- 39 Tennis unit
- 40 Foot bones
- 41 Support
- 42 Before
- 43 Church officer

DOWN

- 1 Switch
- 2 Ties
- 3 Amos's daughter
- 4 Interprets
- 5 Solar phenomena
- 6 Endorsement
- 7 Coat or cast
- 8 Earp
- 9 Philin kn
- 10 Totally free
- 11 Short blast
- 12 Sea bird
- 13 Bring up
- 14 Whip
- 15 Steeple
- 16 ornament
- 17 Carved gem
- 18 Not mixed
- 19 Peter of old films
- 20 Sped
- 21 Harbingers
- 22 Was curious
- 23 Rent
- 24 Hirelings of old
- 25 Addenda
- 26 Swelling
- 27 Walk about
- 28 Remote
- 29 Ability
- 30 Gaf
- 31 Picked
- 32 Competitor
- 33 Being
- 34 Sport of kings
- 35 Church calendar
- 36 Pitcher
- 37 Poker money
- 38 Ointment
- 39 Being
- 40 Prison

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	1. Taradiddle	2. Oath	3. Following	4. Fatwa	5. League	6. Garry and Mary	7. Car type	8. Kind of horse	9. City in India	10. Advantage	11. Extreme	12. League	13. Accurate	14. Archer	15. Stockton's state; abbr.	16. Aware of	17. mover	18. Up	19. Atlanta arena	20. Smelling	21. Philippine tribesmen	22. Vintage car	23. Korean abbr.	24. Continental prefix	25. Parry	26. Former Attorney General	27. US folk singer	28. Belgrade man	29. Philin kn	30. Drug agent	31. "Town"	32. Rael	33. Screamer	34. Rich cake	35. Possess	36. Stop!	37. Priscilla's	38. John	39. Tennis unit	40. Foot bones	41. Support	42. Before	43. Church officer
DOWN	1. Switch	2. Ties	3. Amos's daughter	4. Interprets	5. Solar phenomena	6. Endorsement	7. Coat or cast	8. Earp	9. Philin kn	10. Totally free	11. Short blast	12. Sea bird	13. Bring up	14. Whip	15. Steeple	16. ornament	17. Carved gem	18. Not mixed	19. Peter of old films	20. Sped	21. Harbingers	22. Was curious	23. Rent	24. Hirelings of old	25. Addenda	26. Swelling	27. Walk about	28. Remote	29. Ability	30. Gaf	31. Picked	32. Competitor	33. Being	34. Sport of kings	35. Church calendar	36. Pitcher	37. Poker money	38. Ointment	39. Being	40. Prison			

Mexico jolts neighbours as it looks to north

By Andrew Hurst
Reuter

CARACAS — Mexico's bid to forge a free trade area with the United States has put South American nations on the spot — should they follow suit or stay on the fringes of a trading system dominated by North America, Europe and Japan?

Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and U.S. President George Bush ordered a start to exploratory talks on a free trade pact when they met in Washington last week.

A deal could lead to the creation of a vast North American free trade area encompassing Mexico, the United States and Canada. Negotiations should move into high gear by December.

Many South American leaders are now weighing their options at a time when the region's share of world trade has dwindled to a partly 3.9 per cent, little more than half the level of 30 years

ago, analysts and trade experts said.

"This will generate pressure on other Latin American nations to try to get similar treatment," said Isaac Cohen, director of the Washington office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The alternative for Latin American nations is to make themselves more attractive to foreign investors by forming their own free trade area, but this is thought unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.

"I think a regional free trade area is very unlikely in the short term," said Carlos Perez del Castillo, secretary of the Caracas-based Latin American Economic System (SELA). "The tendency will be for a few nations to work together in certain areas."

Brazil's Foreign Minister Fernando Rezak said on a visit to Argentina last week to review a trade pact between the two nations: "The idea of integration in the region has existed for de-

cades, but it has not been put into practice yet."

In the absence of a clear trend towards regional integration, Washington is eager to offer free trade agreements to all comers in Latin America.

At a meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Asuncion, Paraguay, earlier this month, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills sought to allay fears that Mexico was being singled out for special treatment.

Sally Shelton Colby, a prominent U.S. business consultant who travels frequently to Latin America, said she believed that Chile and possibly Argentina might soon seek their own free trade pacts with Washington.

Mexico's decision appears to have caused resentment among some of its southern neighbours, who see the country turning its back on Latin America, although there is recognition the Mexicans are acting in their best interests.

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BASEBALL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Following are the results of major league baseball games played Sunday:

American League

Toronto Blue Jays	8	New York Yankees	1
Boston Red Sox	6	Baltimore Orioles	5
Cleveland Indians	12	Milwaukee Brewers	5
California Angels	7	Detroit Tigers	3
Minnesota Twins	4	Kansas City Royals	1
Oakland Athletics	5	Chicago White Sox	2
Seattle Mariners	6	Texas Rangers	3

National League

New York Mets	4	Pittsburgh Pirates	3
Cincinnati Reds	7	Houston Astros	1
St. Louis Cardinals	7	Montreal Expos	1
San Francisco Giants	9	Atlanta Braves	7
Los Angeles Dodgers	6	San Diego Padres	3
Chicago Cubs	5	Philadelphia Phillies	3

Following are the major league baseball standings after games played Sunday:

American League
East Division

	Won	Lost	Winning percentage	Games back
Toronto Blue Jays	38	27	.585	—
Boston Red Sox	35	27	.565	1½
Detroit Tigers	31	34	.477	7
Milwaukee Brewers	29	32	.475	7
Cleveland Indians	29	32	.475	7
Baltimore Orioles	29	34	.460	8
New York Yankees	21	39	.350	14½

West Division

	Won	Lost	Winning percentage	Games back
Oakland Athletics	42	20	.677	—
Chicago White Sox	37	23	.617	4
California Angels	32	32	.500	11
Minnesota Twins	31	31	.500	11
Seattle Mariners	32	34	.485	12
Texas Rangers	27	37	.422	16
Kansas City Royals	25	36	.410	16½

National League
East Division

	Won	Lost	Winning percentage	Games back
Pittsburgh Pirates	38	24	.613	—
Montreal Expos	36	28	.563	3
New York Mets	31	29	.516	6
Philadelphia Phillies	32	30	.516	6
St. Louis Cardinals	27	37	.422	12
Chicago Cubs	27	38	.415	12½

West Division

	Won	Lost	Winning percentage	Games back
Cincinnati Reds	39	20	.661	—
San Francisco Giants	34	30	.531	7½
San Diego Padres	31	30	.508	9
Los Angeles Dodgers	30	33	.476	11
Houston Astros	26	37	.413	15
Atlanta Braves	23	38	.400	17

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY TAMMAM HIRSH
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CONTROL YOURSELF
Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 8 5
♥ 10 8 5
♦ A K 5 3
♣ J 6 5 3

EAST
♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ K Q 9 4
♣ A J 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 3 10 9 5
♥ 7
♦ 5 3
♣ A 8 4 2

The bidding:
South — West — North — East
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10 — 11 — 12 — 13 — 14 — 15 — 16 — 17 — 18 — 19 — 20 — 21 — 22 — 23 — 24 — 25 — 26 — 27 — 28 — 29 — 30 — 31 — 32 — 33 — 34 — 35 — 36 — 37 — 38 — 39 — 40 — 41 — 42 — 43 — 44 — 45 — 46 — 47 — 48 — 49 — 50 — 51 — 52 — 53 — 54 — 55 — 56 — 57 — 58 — 59 — 60 — 61 — 62 — 63 — 64 — 65 — 66 — 67 — 68 — 69 — 70 — 71 — 72 — 73 — 74 — 75 — 76 — 77 — 78 — 79 — 80 — 81 — 82 — 83 — 84 — 85 — 86 — 87 — 88 — 89 — 90 — 91 — 92 — 93 — 94 — 95 — 96 — 97 — 98 — 99 — 100 — 101 — 102 — 103 — 104 — 105 — 106 — 107 — 108 — 109 — 110 — 111 — 112 — 113 — 114 — 115 — 116 — 117 — 118 — 119 — 120 — 121 — 122 — 123 — 124 — 125 — 126 — 127 — 128 — 129 — 130 — 131 — 132 — 133 — 134 — 135 — 136 — 137 — 138 — 139 — 140 — 141 — 142 — 143 — 144 — 145 — 146 — 147 — 148 — 149 — 150 — 151 — 152 — 153 — 154 — 155 — 156 — 157 — 158 — 159 — 160 — 161 — 162 — 163 — 164 — 165 — 166 — 167 — 168 — 169 — 170 — 171 — 172 — 173 — 174 — 175 — 176 — 177 — 178 — 179 — 180 — 181 — 182 — 183 — 184 — 185 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U.S. has slim chance

TIRRENTIA, Italy (AP) — The equation keeps getting tougher for the United States.

Even if the Americans beat Austria Tuesday night in their final first-round World Cup game, they have only a remote chance of advancing in the tournament.

A couple of draws Saturday and Sunday virtually ensured that goal differential will decide which four of the six third-place teams advance to the 16-team second round.

Since the United States has scored one goal and allowed six, it's not likely to be among the top four, even if the Americans beat the Austrians.

"It's going to be very difficult," midfielder Tab Ramos said.

"We're going to need some weird results in order to qualify."

At least four of the five other third-place teams will have two points. Group E theoretically could have a third-place team with one point, but it's not likely to happen.

Thus, the United States needs one or two potential third-place teams to lose by big scores.

"We have got to have a win first," goalkeeper Tony Meola said, "and then hope things happen in the other groups."

If the Americans do beat Austria, there is a possibility that they'll have to wait and watch the scoreboard Wednesday and Thursday, when three other first-round groups finish.

Yugoslavs will treat UAE with respect

BOLOGNA (R) — Yugoslavia, needing two more points to be sure of reaching the second round of the World Cup finals, must not take victory over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for granted, coach Ivica Osim warned Sunday.

"This game is not a formality," said Osim of the Yugoslavs' final Group D match Tuesday. "If I were to suggest it was a formality the players could get the same idea and that would be dangerous."

Yugoslavia, equal with Colombia on two points, could qualify as second-place finishers with a draw — assuming the South American side lose to Group D leaders West Germany in Milan Tuesday.

The UAE's amateur side crashed 5-1 to West Germany and 2-0 to Colombia but Osim said they should not be underestimated.

"They have some good players," Osim said. "They didn't come here for fun. They are certainly going to try to prove themselves in their last match. We can't allow them to do anything, to create anything because that would give them a lift."

Osim said Yugoslavia, twice semifinalists at the World Cup, would come under immense pressure if they did not score an early goal.

"Everybody expects us to score in the first five minutes — if we don't we will get whistles and jeers," he said. "That will make it a difficult match."

Osim, who refuses to reveal his team until the last moment, made several changes in the line-up against Colombia Thursday, dropping three players he considered not match fit in the 4-1 defeat by West Germany last weekend.

But it was only in the second half of the Colombia match, with newcomer Robert Jarni and Yugoslav first division top scorer Darko Pancev coming on as substitutes, that the side began to make an impact. Davor Zovic scored the winner in the 73rd minute.

Jarni was expected to keep his place in midfield because first-choice Srecko Katanec remains troubled by a knee injury.

The UAE, playing in their first World Cup finals, have a string of worries in defence. Mubarak Ghanim is injured and Yousef Hussain Mohammad, his usual replacement, is suspended after collecting two cards.

The team's Brazilian coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, said he would probably play the less experienced Abdul Rahman Mohammad Hadad instead.

Italy seeks win against Czechoslovakia

ROME (R) — Italy will be looking for goals against Czechoslovakia Tuesday, to boost morale, reassure their fans and remain at the capital's Olympic stadium for the next round of the World Cup.

After wins against Austria and the United States, both teams have secured a second round berth in the tournament.

But Czechoslovakia, who demolished the United States 5-1, have a superior goal difference and if they win or draw will finish winners of Group A, playing their second round match in Rome.

Italy would have to travel south east to Bari, losing the advantage of huge crowd and a venue that can overawe even opponents with the stoutest hearts.

"We will do all we can to finish in first place," Italian manager Azeglio Vicini said. "Though we have made logistical arrangements if we don't."

Italy also needs a win — preferably a substantial one — to silence critics who slammed them for their narrow 1-0 victory over the Americans, considered the weakest side in the tournament.

The favourites' strikers, especially Gianluca Vialli who missed a penalty against the United States, appear to be suffering from a goal jinx.

Vialli took the blame for the poor performance against the Americans.

Egyptian coach comes under fire

CAIRO, Egypt (Agencies) — Egyptian coach Mahmoud Al Gohary who became a sort of national hero last week for holding favourite Holland to a 1-1 draw, came under sharp criticism Sunday for playing a scoreless defensive match against Ireland in World Cup Group F.

Most Egyptians, experts and ordinary soccer fans, regarded Ireland as the weakest team in Group F and thought the game was Egypt's best chance for qualifying for the next round before meeting strong England Thursday.

"The plan drawn by Al Gohary was wrong and unbalanced. It concentrated on defence and forgot about attack," Mahmoud Sayess, the coach of Egypt's largest and most powerful soccer club, Ahli, said after Sunday's game, summarising the opinion of most professional critics.

Sayess and other critics cited the "excellent" performance of the Egyptian team against Holland Tuesday and said Sunday's game was no match.

Sobhy Mossair, a retired soccer referee, noted that the Egyptian players looked exhausted and allowed the Irish to take the initiative most periods of the game.

He said the passes of the Egyptian players lacked accuracy. Al Gohary appeared on Cairo television moment after the game ended and defended his team, saying it played according to a plan aimed at collecting points.

Cairo television broadcast the match live. The Egyptian public disappointment was apparent in the absence of jubilation and street demonstrations that marked last week's draw with the Dutch.

President Hosni Mubarak was quick to send congratulations to Al Gohary Tuesday and his message was read and repeated over the radio.

Cairo television most of the night amid joyful music and national songs.

Sunday, Mubarak telephoned his congratulations to Abdul Ahad Gamal Eddine, head of the Egyptian Council for Youth and Sports who is currently in Palermo. The state-run Middle East News Agency reported the telephone call.

In Palermo, Sicily, Ireland manager Jack Charlton accused Egypt of wasting time and playing only for a draw.

"It was all so frustrating," he told a post-game news conference. "I didn't like the game. I didn't like the way the Egyptians played. I didn't like their time-wasting tactics one little bit."

He said the Irish played for the win.

"We didn't score goals but at least we tried," Charlton said. "Football is about scoring goals. We had four chances. The Egyptians had none."

Charlton praised Belgian referee Marcel Van Langenhove's handling of the match, one of the most poorly played of the World Cup.

Gohary said his team found it difficult to change its tactics to counteract the Irish attack.

"This was our hardest game but the outcome was a just one," he said. "We did not play to get a draw. We wanted to win."

Irish goalkeeper Paddy Bonner said the team played hard but it wasn't enough.

"Egypt didn't create a single chance," he said. "I felt if we could have got one goal we would have hit a few more."

Midfielder Ray Houghton paid tribute to Egyptian goalkeeper Ahmed Shabir for a magnificent performance.

"I hit the short very well but he got to it," Houghton said. "Momentarily, I thought it was over."

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SEASON IN THE SUN!</

Bulgarian Socialists achieve parliament majority — premier

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's former Communist Party has achieved a majority in the new National Assembly after Sunday's run-off elections with 211 seats secured so far. Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov said Monday.

"This is the first time in history that a Socialist Party (BSP) of our kind has won in a fair and free election," an exuberant Lukanov told reporters.

Lukanov, a 51-year-old economist credited with reshaping the former Communist Party under its new banner as the Bulgarian Socialist Party, was among former Communist candidates to win his constituency seat on Sunday's run-off.

The Central Electoral Commission confirmed the Socialists were

leading with 211 seats in the 400-member parliament, while the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) had 132.

Run-offs were held Sunday in 81 constituencies where no candidate achieved more than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round. Results from 14 of these constituencies were still unknown.

The voting was the second round of Bulgaria's first free election in more than four decades. The first round was held on June 10.

The outcome makes Bulgaria the only country in Eastern Europe to have returned its rulers to powers in multi-party elections.

Confirmation of the Socialists' victory Monday coincided with

the 108th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov, the ideologist who shaped the face of Communist Bulgaria.

The elections were made possible after hardline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov was toppled last November after 35 years of totalitarian rule, during which the Communist Party had a constitutional right to govern.

Although Lukanov won his constituency seat in Sunday's runoff, another popular BSP politician, Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurev, was defeated in his constituency of Trojeb by Yordan Vassilev, the editor of the UDF's newspaper *Democratia*.

Foreign observers monitoring the poll reported some abuses and irregularities, but these did

not appear serious enough to invalidate the outcome.

The UDF, an alliance of 16 opposition groups, alleged fraud in some constituencies after the first election round, but accepted the outcome because it had gained an impressive presence in the new assembly.

The BSP now faces the prospect of trying to form a government without help from the UDF, which has rejected as political suicide an invitation to form a coalition government with the former Communists.

Diplomats said the reports of irregularities in the elections would not harden the UDF's resolve not to deal with the Communists.

Opponents of Iliescu return to Bucharest square

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Opponents of President-elect Ion Iliescu occupied part of a central square Monday in the second day of a protest against last week's bloody crackdown on anti-government demonstrators.

Parliament opened a session that had been scheduled for last week but delayed because of the violent clashes between protesting students and police helped by pro-Iliescu miners.

Prior to the session, the deputies observed a minute's silence to the memory of those who died in the December revolution that toppled Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and in last week's clashes.

About 300 protesters and spectators gathered quietly in a small section of University Square, with no chanting of anti-Iliescu slogans heard Sunday. Traffic moved freely after being blocked for hours the previous day, and few police or soldiers were in evidence.

A group of 200 demonstrators had returned to University Square Sunday, thinning out around midnight after the Interior Ministry made a conciliatory appeal for dialogue.

Tensions have remained high in Romania since the violent breakup Wednesday of the 53-day anti-Iliescu protest in the square.

Over the next two days, club-swinging miners called in by the government beat suspected government opponents and destroyed opposition party offices.

The three days of unrest left six dead and 502 injured.

The miners also demanded that four opposition dailies and periodicals stop publishing.

Romania's Liberal, the independent, frequently anti-Iliescu newspaper, last appeared Wednesday before miners invaded its editorial offices. Pro-government printers and distributors then refused to deal with the paper. Editors said over the weekend they hoped the 800,000-circulation daily would reappear by Tuesday.

Tamil Tigers step up attacks, ignore truce

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas attacked Sri Lankan security forces with rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, ignoring the second ceasefire agreement in less than a week, military sources said Monday.

Heavy fighting erupted between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and government troops in several parts of the northeast province Sunday evening.

Some of the fiercest battles were at an army camp in Kiran in eastern Amparai district.

At least 450 soldiers, many of them wounded, were trapped in the camp, the Sun newspaper said Monday.

The bodies of 10 soldiers killed in the fighting were lying outside the base, the paper said. Two army helicopters that tried to land near the camp to airlift the wounded to hospital were forced back by heavy rebel artillery fire.

More than 400 people, including rebels, security forces and civilians have been killed since June 11 when the Tigers launched a spate of fierce attacks on army and police bases in the north and east.

The latest battles erupted when the Tigers, defying a fragile ceasefire implemented Saturday, attacked an airbase in northern Palaly and army camps at Matur and Kalawachikudi in the east and at Vavuniya in the northern province.

The Tigers attacked with small arms, rocket propelled grenades and mortar bombs, the military sources said.

The army retaliated with similar weaponry, the sources said.

The rebels blew up a 100-foot bridge at Kalawachikudi in Amparai to prevent reinforcements reaching the besieged areas.

200,000 people mark anniversary of Waterloo

WATERLOO, Belgium (R) — Thousands of soldiers clad in 19th century costumes re-enacted the Battle of Waterloo Sunday to mark the 175th anniversary of Napoleon's last stand against Britain and its allies. The mock battle, drawing more than 200,000 spectators, recreated an event which changed the course of European history, with Napoleon's dreams of empire dashed for good by the united forces of Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia. More than 2,000 men in period dress re-enacted scenes from the battle in which cavalry and foot soldiers fought at close range with muskets and sabres. Up to 50,000 died. Waterloo, its main landmarks virtually intact since 1815, became an open-air theatre for the day. A bewhiskered French "soldier" puffed calmly on an antique-style pipe as he prepared to go into battle. Asked by a Belgian television reporter how long he had been rehearsing, he replied, "all my life... over 40 years." And what time would he die? "Oh, about 10.30," he said cheerfully.

Ryzhkov suggested for top post

MOSCOW (R) — Embattled Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov was officially suggested Monday as a possible candidate for another top post, strengthening speculation he might soon step down.

TASS news agency cited party Central Committee secretary Andrei Girenko as saying Ryzhkov, 60, was a possible contender for the post of first secretary of a new Russian Federation Communist Party, expected to be founded this week.

The party is being formed under the auspices of the Central Soviet Communist Party.

Ryzhkov has been under strong

political pressure because of his radical economic programme, including food price rises, which has met with great popular resistance. Russian populist politician Boris Yeltsin has called for the resignation of the Ryzhkov government.

Girenko mentioned other possible candidates for the post including Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin and Party Secretary Yuri Manayenkov.

He said there had been no mention of a candidacy by newly-elected Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, chief critic and political foe of Soviet Presi-

dent Mikhail Gorbachev, who is also party general secretary.

The public mooted of Ryzhkov's name by such a high-ranking official lent weight to speculation that he might step down soon as steward of the troubled economy.

Ryzhkov complained earlier this year about being under intense political fire in drawing up a reform plan to match Gorbachev's vision of a socialist economy under free-market conditions.

He said several weeks ago that political sniping from his critics might force him to quit.

China calls East European changes a setback

PEKING (R) — Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin has told a group of American college students that China sees massive political changes in Eastern Europe not as the collapse of Communism but only as a setback in its development.

Jiang, in a letter to nine U.S. college students quoted Monday, said "drastic" political changes in Eastern Europe did not signify the collapse of Communism — only a temporary check.

"The changes in East Europe only indicate a setback in the course of Socialist development," he said. The China Daily newspaper carried the text of Jiang's letter written on June 11.

In an apparent reference to what Peking has learned from the transformation of Eastern Europe, he cited a Chinese maxim: "a fall in the pit, a gain in your wit."

Peking's Communist leaders have strengthened observance of orthodox Marxist principles after crushing student pro-democracy demonstrations last year and since popular revolutions overthrew most Communist governments in Eastern Europe last year.

Jiang's letter to political science students at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, was in reply to one they wrote to him on March 8. A copy of their letter was not printed.

The party leader told the students the advantages of Sino-U.S. ties outweighed their drawbacks and both countries should take care their relations do not backslide.

Economic relations between the United States, "the biggest developed country," and China, "the biggest developing country," were beneficial to both nations, he said.

"People with foresight have realised that the interests we share are far more important than our differences," he said.

If the United States does not abide by principles of mutual non-interference, then relations "might suffer setbacks or even move backward," he warned.

Ronald Peterson, chairman of the university's Department of Political Science, dismissed the letter as propaganda.

"They talk about friendship, but friendship is impossible without frankness, and frankness is impossible without a free press," he said.

"We expected little more than a general response... a form letter," said Valerie O'Reagan, a spokeswoman for the students who wrote the letter.

Washington's ties with Peking have been severely strained since troops suppressed the mass demonstrations in Peking last June, killing hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

Some military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate that up to half the lieutenants and captains in field units are either members or supporters of YOU.

Those estimates, if true, raise the specter of continued political instability in the Philippines even after Mrs. Aquino leaves office in 1992.

YOU's origins are as obscure as the organisation itself. Sources said it emerged as a separate faction after renegade Lt.-Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan failed in an attempt to overthrow Mrs. Aquino in August 1987.

Some officers claim YOU also played a major role in last December's bloody coup attempt, along with Honasan's Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

3 paintings vandalised in U.S.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A vandal put deep scratches into three paintings, including one by Manet, at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. There have been no arrests in the case. Scratches were found in two 16th-century German works and in an 1880 painting by Manet, a French impressionist, said museum spokeswoman Lisa Austin. The scratches were about as deep as a pen point, she said. Three other paintings were found with faint pencil marks on them, but that marking was not thought to have been deliberate, or even recently done. The German works damaged Friday were *Portrait of a Bearded Man* by Lucas Cranach the younger in 1538, and *Beethoven Portrait of a Lady* a 1558 work by Barthel Bruyn the younger. Both are part of the museum's permanent collection. A scratch was found shortly after the gallery closed Thursday in Manet's *Still Life With Brioche*, on loan from the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. Museum conservator Forrest Bailey said he believed a disgruntled employee was responsible.

Fujimori says some officers in Peruvian military resent him

LIMA, Peru (R) — Alberto Fujimori has said that some military officers resented him because of his Japanese origin but said he had no fear of military pressure or disloyalty by the armed forces.

He said some military officers had planned a "psychological coup" to block him from winning last week's election. He did not elaborate.

Asked about rumours that nationalist navy officers resented him because of his Asian ancestry, Fujimori told Reuters in an interview: "It's a serious problem. There have been rumours about this... it's probably a minority sector."

He said some naval officers opposed to him had planned to intervene in the election to prevent him from beating his centre-right opponent, Mario Vargas Llosa, but that the army opposed the idea.

"There are minority sectors in the navy that sought a psychological coup... in the face of the defeat suffered by their candidate," Fujimori said.

"This had been thought of not as a military coup, but a psychological coup. But fortunately, the majority of the armed forces are very respectful of the constitu-

tion," he said.

A highly placed government source said some diehard military supporters of Vargas Llosa, a renowned novelist, had plotted to declare him the winner in a challenge to the voting process had the election been close.

Fujimori beat Vargas Llosa by about 20 percentage points in the run-off election, according to voter exit polls. Official results will not be released until next week at the earliest.

"I have no fear of coups or pressures at all... I have been elected to govern for five years... with the support of the Peruvian people," he said in the interview at his home in the Andean foothills outside Lima.

During the tenure of outgoing President Alan Garcia, rumours of a coup cropped up from time to time at moments of political crisis brought on by leftist guerrilla violence and economic disorder.

But the military, which last overthrew an elected government in Peru in 1968 and ruled for the next 12 years, has insisted publicly in its loyalty to democracy and there have been no unusual military manoeuvres.

Fujimori, who overcame a racist backlash by some supporters

of Vargas Llosa to win the election, said his victory showed that Peru's traditional political parties had been discredited by years of failed economic policies.

There are about 70,000 Peruvians of Japanese descent out of a population of 21 million. Fujimori is the first to gain high elected office.

"My triumph shows the rejection of political parties. The people want industry, development, machinery, not empty speeches," said Fujimori, a political neophyte who surged from nowhere to finish second behind Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting in April.

Fujimori said his first task in office would be to put Peru's battered economy in order. Inflation is running at 35 per cent a month and industry is caught in deep depression.

Peru will be wide open to foreign investment and the government will resume full payments on the foreign debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a first step towards winning the confidence of bank creditors, he said.

"The government will make payments according to schedule to the IMF from my first day in office," he said.

The party leader told the students the advantages of Sino-U.S. ties outweighed their drawbacks and both countries should take care their relations do not backslide.

Economic relations between the United States, "the biggest developed country," and China, "the biggest developing country," were beneficial to both nations, he said.

"People with foresight have realised that the interests we share are far more important than our differences," he said.

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Mysterious group of young Filipino officers emerge as potential threat

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A shadowy group of young military officers claims to be leading an underground movement bent on overthrowing President Corazon Aquino and the social system she represents.

The Young Officers Union, or YOU, appeared last year as yet another clique in the factionalised armed forces of the Philippines.

The extent of YOU's membership within the 15,000-member officer corps — or even whether the organisation exists at all beyond press releases — is the subject of considerable speculation among government officials, the press and foreign diplomats.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos dismisses YOU as a public relations creation of the better-known Reform the Armed Forces Movement, whose image has been tarnished because of links to discredited politicians.

But some officials apparently take the group seriously. The military has offered a total of 1.5 million pesos (\$77,000) in rewards for the arrest of seven renegade officers identified as YOU leaders.

Some military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate that up to half the lieutenants and captains in field units are either members or supporters of YOU.

Those estimates, if true, raise the specter of continued political instability in the Philippines even after Mrs. Aquino leaves office in 1992.

YOU's origins are as obscure as the organisation itself. Sources said it emerged as a separate faction after renegade Lt.-Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan failed in an attempt to overthrow Mrs. Aquino in August 1987.

Some officers claim YOU also played a major role in last December's bloody coup attempt, along with Honasan's Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

experience has persuaded many young officers that the real enemy is not the communist New People's Army, but poverty, social oppression, corruption and the government's failure to deliver basic services.

"These idealist guys who are out in the field see the difficulties in fighting the Communist insurgents with very little help from the government and corruption in their military leaders," said a general, who also insisted on anonymity.

The colonel said charter members of YOU included intelligence officers who became sympathetic with some goals of the Communists because of their exposure to rebel propaganda and deplorable conditions in the countryside.

Like the Communists, YOU uses nationalistic, anti-American rhetoric. It calls for sweeping political, economic and political change and an end to "American interference" in this former U.S. colony.

YOU leaders include Capt. Washington Javier, Capt. Rafael Cardeno and Lt. Diosdado Valeroso — all former members of the Philippine Constabulary's special anti-Communist intelligence command. All are now underground.

According to sources, YOU also has adopted the organisational structure of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

One YOU member, who uses the alias 1st Lt. Ruben Sangalang, said the leadership is divided into nine cells of about six members each.

Each cell is led by a political officer who conducts "teach-ins" and is responsible for a specific task, such as propaganda or communications, he said.

As in the Communist underground, members of one cell usually know only one member of any other cell. This enables cells to maintain contact without fear that a single arrest could compromise an entire group, he said.

Sources say YOU sponsors Marxist-style political discussions among combat units and is trying to establish "support groups" among civilians to broaden its base.

YOU statements are replete with the same references to "American imperialism" and the

Aquino "puppet regime" as those of the Communists.

"A considerable number of young military officers have come to realise that their supreme loyalty is to uphold the dignity, freedom and social justice that the Filipino people rightfully deserve," YOU said in a recent statement.

"We vow Cory will not finish her term as an illegitimate president," the statement added. "For as long as the majority of our beloved countrymen have to suffer the indignity of living in a prostituted sovereignty and sham democracy, we vow to continue the struggle that we hope and pray will finally free our beloved countrymen from the clutches of the imperialist U.S. government."

Much of the anti-Americanism appears linked to U.S. intervention in the December coup attempt, when U.S. F-4 Phantom jets flew air cover for government forces.

"We are warning them (Americans) that the next time they meddle, they will find themselves trapped in another Vietnam," Sangalang said.

8 rebels arrested

In a separate development, troops captured eight suspected Communist rebels believed responsible for killing a suburban police chief in April 1988, military sources said Monday.

An officer at the Philippine Constabulary who requested anonymity said the eight were being questioned on their alleged involvement in the slaying of Col. Herminio Taylo.

The officer said an official announcement of the arrest was being withheld in the hope that police would be able to capture more rebels.

Taylo, 54, was police chief of Manila's financial district of Makati. He was killed on April 7, 1989 while buying fruit at a public market.

Taylo's assailants reportedly shouted "we are NPAs" before they fled in a commandeered jeep from the slaying. The NPA, or New People's Army, has been waging a 21-year insurgency to establish a Marxist state in the Philippines.

Troops seized several weapons from the suspected insurgents, the official said.

Operation replaces woman's scalp

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A woman whose scalp was torn off from the eyelids to the nose of her neck, exposing the skull, had her scalp sewn back on in a 14-hour operation. "She is going to be just fine," the lead surgeon said. A team of five surgeons worked with high-powered microscopes to replace the woman's entire scalp, small blood vessels and other tissues torn from her head last week in a vineyard accident in Napa Valley. "She was an attractive woman before... she will be an attractive woman when it's over," said Dr. Alfonso Oliva, who conducted the surgery at Ralph K. Davies Medical Centre. The 33-year-old vineyard manager, whose family asked that her name not be released, was working in the field at Domaine Chandon on June 4 when her hair caught in the rotor of a sprayer crankshaft, the hospital said Tuesday. Though horrified, the woman's co-workers had enough presence of mind to preserve the scalp. The woman was sped by ambulance to a nearby hospital in Napa, and then 80 kilometres to San Francisco, where the operation was done within 12 hours of the accident. Oliva said his team reconnected two of the major arteries to the scalp. Three veins in the exposed skull were rejoined using vein grafts from the woman's feet, and eight blood vessels, some "as small as the width of lead in a mechanical pencil," were rejoined.

Boy prostitutes sent to welfare hostel

BANGKOK (R) — Fourteen Thai boys who offered homosexual sex to foreign tourists in Bangkok hotels have been sent to a home run by the public welfare department. The boys, aged between eight and 15, were detained by police at the weekend in the city's main red-light district, said Monday. They charged 300 baht (\$12) for a sex session.

Colombia to move policemen out of poor Medellin suburbs

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian policemen living in poor areas of the cocaine capital of Medellin will be moved or transferred to protect them from hired assassins waging a vendetta against police, a police chief has said.

Police Operational Director General Octavio Vargas Silva told El Tiempo newspaper that moving the policemen was one of a series of steps to improve police security and intelligence in Medellin, headquarters of a feared cocaine cartel.

El Tiempo, Colombia's biggest-selling newspaper, said commanders had ordered that every policeman be moved out of Medellin suburbs.

"We have found that most of the murdered policemen died when they were off duty, when they were going home or to see

their girlfriends. Who doesn't know where the policeman of the suburb lives?" the newspaper quoted Vargas as saying.

Police said gunmen shot dead two soldiers and two policemen Saturday in Medellin, the front line of a 10-month-old war between drug traffickers and the state.

More than 130 policemen have been killed there so far this year, most since March when police say Medellin cartel boss Pablo Escobar offered a bounty for each officer killed.

The police said gunmen burst into a bar in Bello, near Medellin, Friday night and shot dead six people, the latest of several recent massacres in the city.

The national news agency Colprens reported Sunday that police had arrested a man who

the U.S. government wants to extradite to face drug-trafficking charges.

It said Salomon Shuster Benitez, suspected of belonging to the coast cartel, a subsidiary of the Medellin cartel, was arrested Saturday in the Caribbean town of Barranquilla. Police spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment.

A car bomb exploded near a Medellin police station, killing four, last week after police shot dead John Jairo Arias Tascon, who they said was head of assassins and number five man in the Medellin cartel.

Medellin police complain they are so badly paid they have to live in working-class neighbourhoods teeming with assassins in the pay of the drug barons. Around 1,450 live in poor suburbs, El Tiempo said.

Some military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate that up to half the lieutenants and captains in field units are either members or supporters of YOU.

Those estimates, if true, raise the specter of continued political instability in the Philippines even after Mrs. Aquino leaves office in 1992.

YOU's origins are as obscure as the organisation itself. Sources said it emerged as a separate faction after renegade Lt.-Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan failed in an attempt to overthrow Mrs. Aquino in August 1987.

Some officers claim YOU also played a major role in last December's bloody coup attempt, along with Honasan's Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

Sources said the younger officers broke from Honasan because they felt he and other movement leaders were indecisive and too closely allied to top military officials.

Military sources both inside and outside YOU said the new organisation was also born of frustration among junior officers with fighting the 21-year war against Communist rebels.

A colonel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said combat

Ecuador ruling party looks set to lose elections

QUITO (R) — Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja's ruling centre-left party appeared to be heading for heavy defeat in mid-term congressional elections held Sunday, a television exit poll said.

Telecentro-Canal 5 said in a news bulletin some five hours after polling stations closed that Borja's ruling Democratic Left Party looked set to lose more than half its seats in the 71-seat single-chamber parliament.

The right-wing Social Christians of former President Leon Febres Cordero were on the way to displacing the Democratic Left (ID) as the strongest political

force in the new congress, Telecentro said.

The popularity of Borja, who has two more years of his presidential term to serve, has been battered by an economic crisis aggravated by falling oil prices and a large external debt. Oil exports are a major source of government income.

Interior Minister Andres Vallejo said earlier on television that the ID and the Social Christians appeared to have picked up a roughly equal number of votes.

According to the Telecentro exit poll, the Social Christians had won 17 out of the 60 seats up

for election while Borja's party scraped home with only 11 seats. The opposition Socialists made gains while a Christian Democrat grouping lost support.

The electoral court, appointed by congress to supervise elections, earlier accused officials of several unnamed political parties of trying to disrupt voting by failing to turn up for duty at polling stations.

Before Sunday's election, the ID held 30 seats in parliament while the Social Christians had only seven.

Political analysts said before the poll that if the ruling ID

suffered a big setback in the polls, Borja's ability to continue governing would depend largely on the party's skills at forging a new alliance with other parties.

Government spokesman Gonzalo Ortiz said Borja could still govern comfortably even if his party lost support.

"The government will not be weakened because a presidential regime exists in Ecuador and not a parliamentary one," he said.

Officials said about one quarter of the country's 5.2 million eligible voters had stayed away from the polls. Voting is compulsory in Ecuador.

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